The Middlebury Campus

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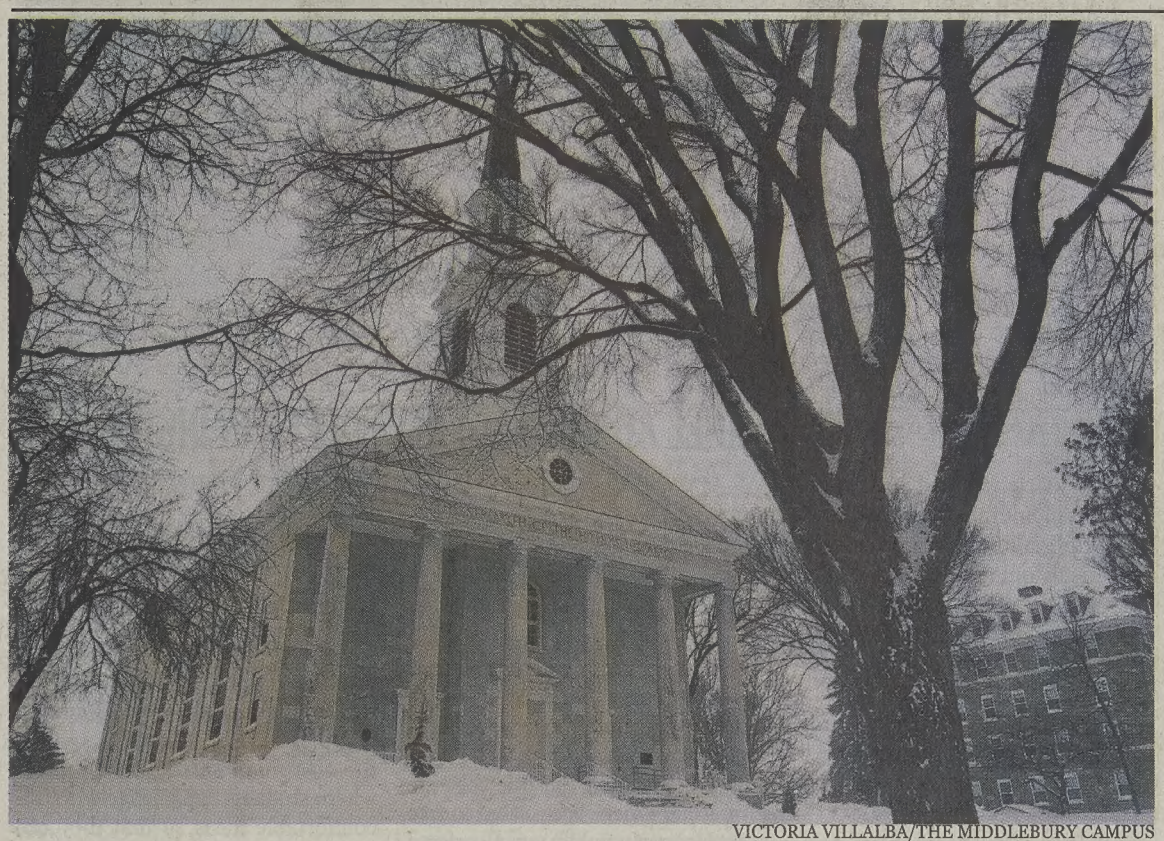

VICTORIA VILLALBA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A fresh snowfall covered the hill in front of Mead Chapel last week. The white marble matched the wintry scene.

Student Accuses Over 30 Men of Sexual Misconduct on Facebook

By ETHAN BRADY
Editor in Chief

A Middlebury College student posted a "List of Men to Avoid" on Facebook on Dec. 12, publicly accusing 33 current and former male students of sexual misconduct.

The list originally contained 16 names, but was added to throughout the day Wednesday, Dec. 13, until it was removed from Facebook. Beside each name was a brief description of the person's alleged actions, ranging from "emotionally manipulative" to "serial rapist."

"Feel free to dm me more names to add to this status because I could really give a f[—] about protecting the privacy of abusers," the student, Elizabeth Dunn '18, wrote in the post, adding a heart emoji.

It is unclear how many people submitted names to Dunn. The Campus is withholding the names of accused students because it could not independently substantiate each claim.

Physical copies of the list were posted in prominent locations around campus, including dining halls and dorms. The printed lists had "#ME TOO" emblazoned in large letters. The appearance of the list shook a campus engrossed in final exams just as students were preparing for winter break.

The list drew explicit parallels to the recent spate of sexual misconduct allegations that have forced the ouster of famous people from positions of power, including Harvey Weinstein and Sen. Al Franken — though none of the current or former students named are public figures.

"Something that's been weighing me down for a while, especially after the #metoo movement, is

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New Fund Promotes Discussion of Opposing Views

By SABINE POUX
Arts & Sciences Editor

In an effort to bring together divergent perspectives, the Student Government Association (SGA) and President Laurie L. Patton have partnered to create the Communicating Across Difference Fund (CADF). The fund seeks to put opposing viewpoints on balanced footing by sponsoring events that allow student organizations to discuss points of contention without privileging one side over another.

"At a time when our campus is greatly divided, we wanted to find a way to provide people with differing views to have a seat at the table and promote conversations for understanding," said SGA president Jin Sohn '18. "We wanted to invite people and provide opportunities for ownership of conversation for those whose voices have been misrepresented or silenced in any way. We believe helping financially to create these events and conversations is one of the many ways to make these opportunities accessible for more on our campus."

The fund is part of the SGA and Patton's common agenda, which aims to encourage collaboration between the student body and the administration.

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SGA president Jin Sohn '18 helped to spearhead the fund's establishment.

"Stronger communication is key to several items on the common agenda," Patton said, "as is supporting more student leadership on key challenges on our campus."

Organizations will apply to the CADF together through the SGA Finance Committee and will receive funding on a mutual basis. The first $2,000 of funding will come from Patton's discretionary fund, while any requests thereafter will be sponsored by the SGA.

According to SGA treasurer Peter Dykeman-Bermingham '18.5, the fund was originally framed in political discussion but extends to organizations of any type.

"The goal is really just finding difference in how we operate day-to-day as human beings in all of our passions and projects," he said. "It doesn't necessarily have to relate to the politics of the day."

Dykeman-Bermingham also noted the importance of bilateral agreement among participating organizations.

"Neither organization has complete control of the money, neither has complete control over the event," he said. "They both had to agree to the conversation together, they both had to be consenting parties and that's really key to us, so we're not forcing anyone into a

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Panel Reopens Murray Debate With Legal Perspective

By CATHERINE POLLACK
News Editor

The college and PEN America presented a panel on Thursday, Jan. 11 on free speech and inclusion, entitled "Whose Freedom, Whose Speech? The Future of Community and Free Speech at Middlebury." This panel was designed to continue the ongoing conversations at the college about the relationship between free speech and community values since last spring.

The panel was a part of the Critical Conversations series that was started in the fall of 2017 in an effort to engage the diversity of perspectives on campus in discussion. PEN America, the college's partner in the panel, is a nonprofit organization that works with colleges and universities to address issues of free expression.

The panel was moderated by Suzanne Nossel, the executive director of PEN America. The panelists included Roberto Lint Sagarena,

PEN AMERICA

Executive director of PEN America Suzanne Nossel moderated.

director of intercultural programs and associate professor of American studies at the college, Elizabeth Siyuan Lee '17, campaigns strategist at Coworker.org, James Lyall '02,

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WEEKEND OF EVENTS CELEBRATES MLK'S LEGACY

By KAYLA LICHTMAN
Contributing Writer

The Middlebury community came together early this week to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. The events spanned three days. A Sunday talk was followed by a Monday breakfast, then by a mural painting project on Tuesday. The Alliance for an Inclusive Middlebury, the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, the Center for Community Engagement (CCE), the Commons, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs organized the events.

The first event was a talk titled "Meditation vs. Detention: Empowering Youth with Mindfulness." (See Page A4) Ali Smith, Atman Smith and Andy Gonzalez, founders of the Holistic Life Foundation, delivered the talk. Their nonprofit is a Baltimore-based organization which helps children develop through yoga, mindfulness and self-care.

The three founders explained that after attending college together, they moved to Baltimore, where they began teaching yoga to middle school students after school for free. The neighborhood they lived in at the time was one of the more violent in the city. As the program developed, the organization "started picking up less and less kids at detention," said Gonzalez. They also noticed they were breaking up less fights. "We started changing dialogue in community," Atman added.

Their program began attracting more participants, and even trained some to become yoga instructors themselves. The program initially served 150 students per week, but now serves over 10,000 students per week.

"[The Holistic Life Foundation] provided an alternative way of relating to these kids and it changed their behavior, which is just an incredible concept," said associate chaplain Rabbi Danielle Stillman, who was one of the coordinators of the talk.

In reaction to the presentation, Mikayla Hyman '20 said that "they had a lot of love, and that's really what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was based on." Using the founders of the Holistic Life Foundation as an example, Hyman added, "There's so much people can do for social change but they don't often think of themselves as instigators."

Students, faculty and other members of the Middlebury community gathered in Atwater dining hall on Monday morning to discuss how to create what Dr. King called a "beloved community" here at Middlebury.

Will Nash, professor of American studies, explained that a "beloved community is grounded in the principles of nonviolence and the idea that power is not the most important thing." Nash then prompted each table to discuss how Middlebury could work toward achieving such a community.

Many students and administrators discussed this question in light of the divisive events that have affected the campus during the past year. At one table, dis-

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Middlebury Dodges GOP Bill's Endowment Tax

By BOCHU DING
Contributing Writer

On Dec. 22, President Donald Trump signed into law a significant and controversial overhaul of the nation's tax system, featuring large cuts for corporations and wealthy taxpayers. The legislation was passed by the Republican-controlled Congress despite opposition from large universities and small colleges alike, due to provisions that may significantly disadvantage some institutions of higher education.

Most glaring among the clauses affecting colleges is a 1.4 percent excise tax on endowment returns at private colleges which enroll at least 500 students, and whose endowment assets are valued at $500,000 per full time student. The endowment threshold initially sat at $100,000, encompassing scores of colleges, before being revised to $250,000 and finally bumped up to its current state in the final bill. As it stands, about 35 schools are likely to be affected by the endowment tax in 2018.

Middlebury, whose endowment per student averages $330,000-340,000, narrowly escapes the margin of taxability. However, given its current $1.073 billion endowment and a 10-year annualized return rate of 6.3 percent Middlebury may become subject to the tax within the next three years if its total enrollment remains around 2,500.

College treasurer David Provost estimates that if the tax had been levied against Middlebury in 2017, it would have reduced Middlebury's annual investment income by up to $600,000.

The colleges expected to be newly taxed in 2018 range from Ivy League schools like Harvard and Princeton to NESCAC colleges including Amherst and Bowdoin. The new endowment tax may prove to be damaging to college initiatives such as research funding and financial aid. Harvard, for example, estimates that if the reforms had been law in 2017, it would have been required to pay $43 million to the federal government.

Large research institutions are not the only victims of the new tax. Some small colleges are especially disadvantaged, as much of their endowment revenue is funneled toward financial aid. Debby Kuenstner, the Chief Investment Officer at Wellesley, stated in 2009 that that a third of Wellesley's endowment income goes toward scholarships.

Berea College, a small liberal arts college in Kentucky, is dealt a particularly devastating blow in regard to their financial aid program. Every year, 1,600 students receive a tuition-free education from Berea, whose $1 billion en-

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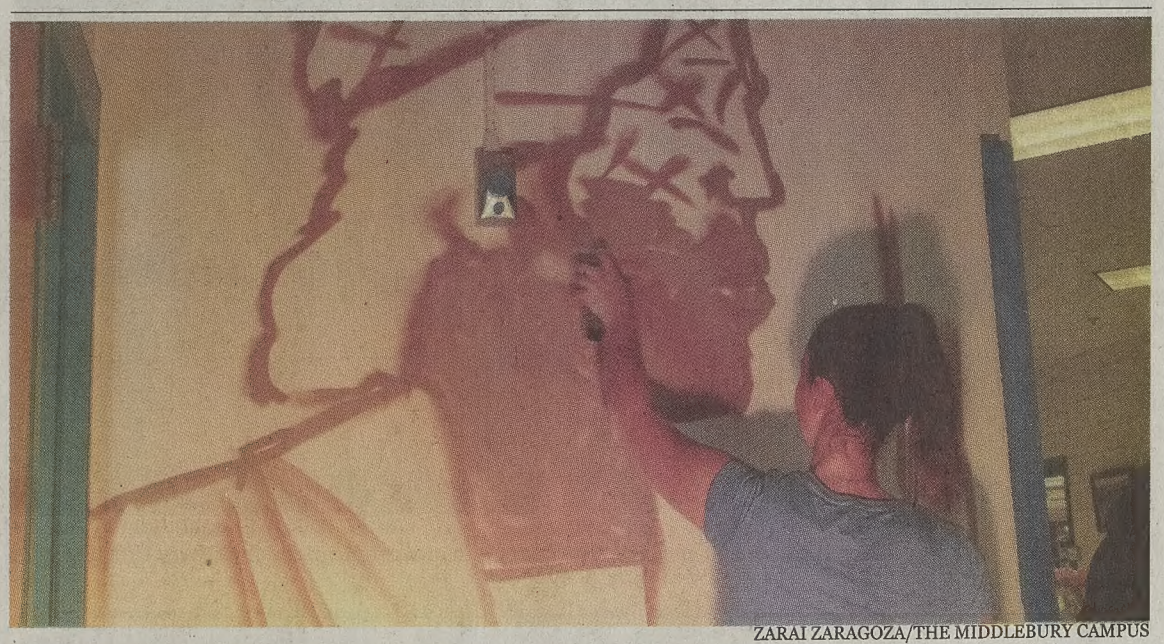

ZARAI ZARAGOZA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Olivia Cannell '19.5 adds to a mural of Rosa Parks at the Middlebury Union Middle School on a day of service honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Ski team settles into the snow for 2018 campaign
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First in Class of 2022 Accepted in Early Decision Round

By BEN DOHAN
Contributing Writer

The college admissions team released the first round of early decision acceptances on Dec. 9. Of the 650 applicants, 326 students were accepted, putting the admissions rate at just over 50 percent. Those students accepted early decision are bound to attend the college.

The average number of students accepted early decision tends to be a little over 300. This year's number was lower than last year, when 343 students were accepted as part of the early decision one process.

In addition to the 326 acceptances, 39 applicants were deferred to the regular decision pool, and the remaining students were rejected. 300 of the accepted students will start in September, while the remaining 26 will begin in February.

The final size of the combined classes of 2022 and 2022.5 is expected to total around 715 students. The 326 already accepted students make up about 45 percent of that total. Feb classes generally total around 100 people, which means that only about 25 percent of the class of 2022.5 has been admitted.

Twenty-three percent of the admitted class consists of students of color, and 11 percent are the first person in their family to go to college. Diversity is down from the 28 percent of last years class that consisted of students of color.

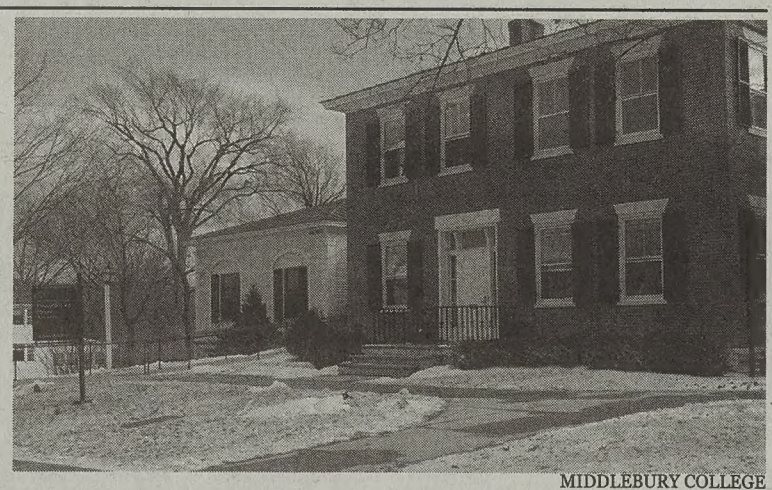
The accepted students are from 32 states plus Washington, D.C., and 20 countries. 29 international students are among the 326. Other than the United States, the most common countries that students come from are Canada, China, and the Philippines. The best represented state is New York, followed by Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Illinois and Vermont.

30 of the admitted students were a part of the Posse Foundation, an organization that helps public school students who display academic and leadership potential to access elite schools that might otherwise overlook them. The admitted students are part of three 10 person teams from Los Angeles, New York and Chicago.

The early decision process has been criticized in the past for favoring wealthy applicants who do not have to be concerned with financial aid packages. The binding nature of early decision applications means that students do not have the opportunity to compare financial aid packages from different schools.

This criticism led to some schools, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Stanford to replace early decision with single-choice early action. This system allows students to apply to one school in the early admission process without being bound to that school.

The ED2 decisions will come out in February, before the final round of admissions decisions are released in April.



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

The admissions office is named after Emma Willard, an educator who founded the first institution of higher education for women.

Student's Facebook Post Lists 'Men to Avoid'

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how incredibly visible survivors can be, and yet how invisible the ones who violated our boundaries remain," Dunn wrote in the original post. They lamented seeing "people associate with those who have perpetuated this violence as if nothing has happened."

The list appeared days before actor Matt Damon drew heated criticism for saying that "there's a spectrum of behavior" when it comes to sexual misconduct, and that "patting someone on the butt" should not be conflated with rape. Earlier in December, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand rejected that view, saying, "You need to draw a line in the sand and say none of it is O.K. None of it is acceptable."

At Middlebury, the list described some students as "serial rapist" and others as having committed "sexual harassment." One student was described as treating "women but especially Black women like shit." Another was said to have made "fetishistic, racist, sexual comments about Black women."

The list concluded with this: "Here's to not being complicit in 2018."

Dunn did not respond to a request for comment.

The college responded the next day by advocating its judicial process. Katy Smith Abbott, outgoing dean of the college, said in an all-campus email on Dec. 14 that sexual misconduct should be reported to the college's judicial officers, Karen Guttentag and Brian Lind.

"We have a dedicated professional staff with enormous expertise in handling these cases," the email said.

Smith Abbott's email was co-signed by Baishakhi Taylor, her interim replacement beginning Jan. 1.

The deans later sent a second email addressing concerns about the list's public and unvetted nature.

"Public allegations should not take the place of our established procedures," the deans said on Dec. 15. "These procedures exist to encourage reporting, to ensure that allegations are investigated thoroughly and confidentially, and to see to it that all parties are treated fairly."

The deans also encouraged people who think they were "falsely accused of misconduct in a public forum" to contact the judicial officers.

The officers would "gather information from any student who makes a complaint that a policy has been violated, will evaluate the information to determine which policies may be implicated, and will ensure that the conduct is addressed through the appropriate process," according to the deans.

MLK Day Marked by Speakers, Mural

(Continued from Page A1)

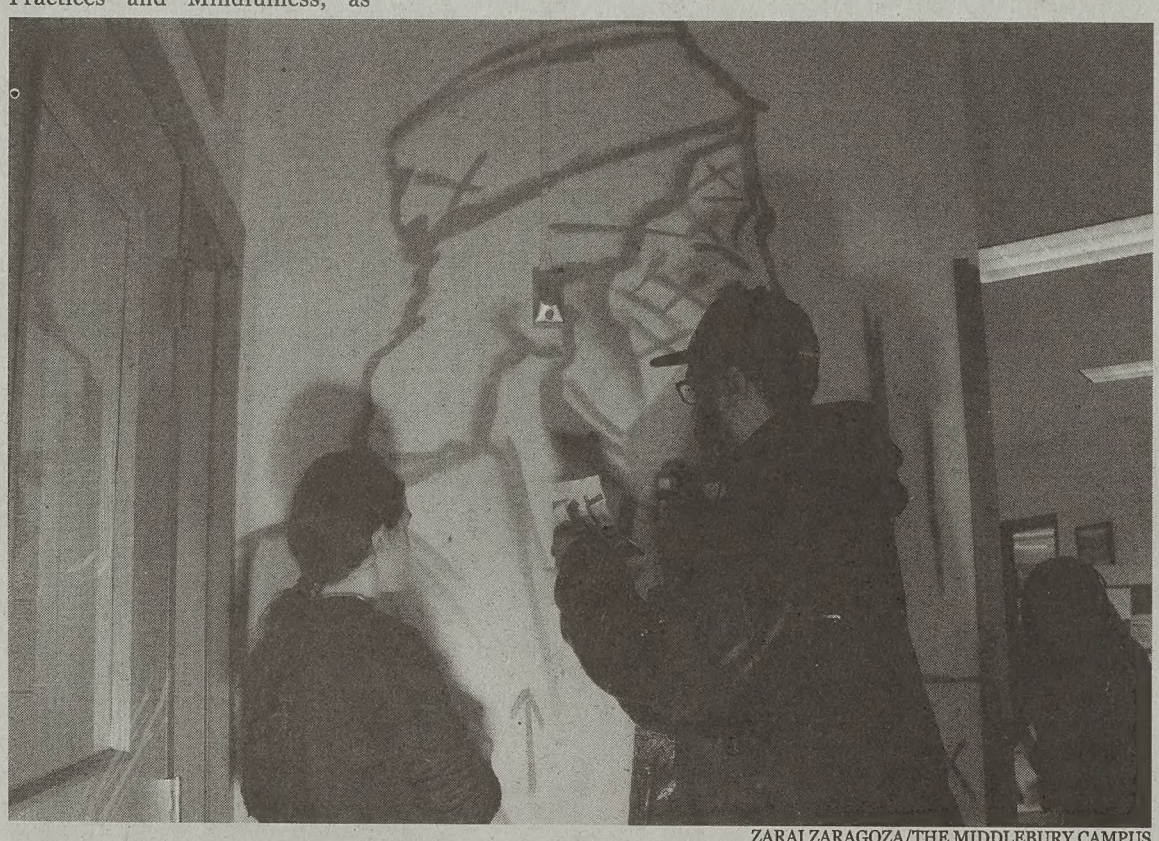
cussion centered around the idea that many micro-communities exist within the larger Middlebury community, making it difficult to feel connected as an entire school. Another table considered if "community is a given" and whether or not "inhabiting the same place makes us a community."

Dean of spiritual and religious life Mark Orten said we must build a "beloved" community "as we might define it, by means that are present to us now." He added, "The President's support for initiatives like Restorative Practices and Mindfulness, as well as events facilitating dialogic processes around inclusivity and free speech, engaged in by many members of this community, are starting to form hopeful sinews."

Middlebury College students and middle schoolers gathered at Middlebury Union Middle School on Tuesday to paint a community mural honoring Dr. King and the civil rights movement. Artist and visiting winter term professor Will Kasso guided the painting of the mural. Near the school entrance, Rosa Parks is now depicted sitting bravely in her bus seat, surrounded by words like "bold," "dream" and "impact."

"That one act of her not getting up made everybody stand up for themselves," said Kasso. He went on to explain his belief that a community mural acts as an especially good medium for bringing people together and starting a dialogue. "Art should always remain fun," said Kasso.

Many of the students at the mural painting were in of Kasso's winter term class, Origins and Politics of Graffiti. Vishawn Greene '21 added that the mural was a nice way to "cement [Park's] legacy." Alejandra Chavez '19 spoke to its potential to "leave a little mark, as we all hope to do."



ZARAI ZARAGOZA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Will Kasso and Kayla Lichtman '21 painted an image of Rosa Parks with other students at Middlebury Union Middle School on Tues., Jan. 16.

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PANEL ADDRESSES FREE SPEECH IN DIGITAL AGE

(Continued from Page A1)

executive director of the Vermont ACLU, and Nabiha Syed, the assistant general counsel at Buzzfeed.

The discussion began with demographic questions to get a sense of the backgrounds and perspectives of audience members on how much the college is doing to promote free speech and inclusivity.

Syed discussed the role that the First Amendment law related to free speech plays in public versus private universities. She said that, while the law is quite narrow, there is cultural meaning layered on top of what the law says that gives private universities the opportunity to think about their values without strictly adhering to the First Amendment. Lyall agreed that private colleges have the unique opportunity to make value judgments about what type of speech should be allowed on campus.

Lyall said he felt it is critical that the college continues the difficult conversations that have come out of the Charles Murray talk.

Sagarena said that to call the Charles Murray events an attack on free speech oversimplifies the significant events leading up to his talk. He said, "We cannot think about the event in a vacuum. The response to Charles Murray was a proxy for events happening nationally following the election."

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Roberto Lint Sagarena teaches American studies and directs intercultural programs at the college.

Syed echoed his thoughts, saying, "Free speech is messy, loud, and sloppy because it invokes moments of great emotional and political turmoil and the national backdrop of the Charles Murray event stoked that flame."

Siyuan reminded the other panelists, "We need to see Middlebury as a home, not just a platform for ideas. While we need to preserve a platform for people to discuss, it feels more violent when we live on this campus and there's only around 2,500 of us." She went on to say that the classroom should be the place where students can engage with uncomfortable ideas so that they can actually discuss those ideas.

Syed warned that, "When a group of people protest so loudly that the person can't be heard, you open yourselves up to others doing the same to you, which leads to a race to the bottom."

The conversation then turned to the role that the college should have in policing free speech online. Sagarena said that he feels that Facebook posts are private and should not be part of the college's dominion. Siuyan agreed but said, "When you insert yourself into the public sphere, you need to take responsibility for the speech you put out there." Syed argued that many people have taken to expressing themselves online when they feel that other systems of justice have failed them.

As the conversation turned to hate speech, Syed said, "We carve out categories of speech as being beyond the pale all the time, but historically we have refused to carve out hate speech." She argued that it is important to pay attention to who is drawing the lines for what speech is acceptable. She and other panelists also emphasized the importance of paying attention to the matrix of power that exists around speech.

In a poll at the end of the panel and after time was given for questions, 29 percent of students said a lot more needs to be done for open expression on campus, while 50 percent of faculty said a lot more needs to be done. Twenty-eight percent of students also said they had not yet decided, which makes it clear that these conversations continue to be critical to understand how our campus will move forward with these issues.

Tax Reform's Effect on College Unclear, Says Treasurer

(Continued from Page A1)

dowment covers all costs. However, with the new tax in place, Berea could face a significant financial obstacle, challenging its tuition-free system.

Although Middlebury will not face this new tax in 2018, other provisions in the GOP tax plan may harm the college's finances. According to Provost, Middlebury previously took advantage of advance refunding of tax exempt debt, which saved the college millions of dollars in past years as a result of lower interest rates. This option will no longer be available to Middlebury.

In addition, changes to personal deductions may lower taxpayers' incentive to make charitable donations. "Less people will itemize their deductions with the increase in the personal exemption. We are unsure if this will impact charitable giving to the college, but it could," Provost said. "Time will tell."

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Provost has served as treasurer since Dec. 2016.

PATTON AND SGA TO FUND NEW DISCOURSE INITIATIVE

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conversation they don't want to be in."

Such conversations, according to Patton, may build trust among members of the college community.

"If we can sustain social relationships, and build what some theorists call 'social capital,' or long term relationships of mutual trust and benefit, we can work together in times of crisis," she said. "We can learn to debate and disagree in an atmosphere of confidence and connection, rather than let the disagreements erode trust."

The CADF is live now, and members from student organizations may propose their budgets for CADF-sponsored events at SGA Finance Committee meetings. Representatives from each of the participating organizations must be present at the time of application.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Patton's discretionary fund will provide the program's first $2,000.

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A New Presidential Tradition Is Needed

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Each year the Queen of England opens Parliament with a speech from the throne outlining her government's legislative agenda. In similar fashion, President Trump will give a State of the Union address on Jan. 30, presenting his vision for the United States. These state speeches offer a model for Middlebury to function more like a cohesive institution: a yearly "state of the college" address given by the president during J-term.

January is a reflective period at Middlebury, sandwiched in between two semesters. The president's office has already organized several campus-wide events this month that offer space for discussion. An annual presidential address would round it off, serving as a natural step toward achieving this administration's own goal of achieving "rhetorical openness," outlined in a document called "Envisioning a Rhetoric That Binds Us."

The idea is not new among academia, either: Cornell, Texas and Virginia Tech all have yearly state of the university addresses given by their presidents. Smaller schools like Oberlin and Lafayette also have them, and arguably benefit more from them because of their tight-knit nature. Middlebury would be wise to follow these schools' lead.

The past year has been turbulent for the campus. Since Charles Murray, administrative communication has been fraught. It came to a boil in the town hall in Mead Chapel last November. This event was necessary and cathartic, but it suffered from a lack of structure. The constant passing of mics left many questions unanswered.

The town hall, as messy as it was, was a positive thing for this campus, especially because it allowed students to hear directly from President Patton on a range of heated issues. This is something that our college needs.

Middlebury needs a better structure of communication in place, one that makes the administration accountable to its students and even alumni. A public address in Mead Chapel would encourage productive conversation, both qualifying and clarifying the direction of the college.

This board recognizes its own hand in placing sometimes impossible demands on President Patton. Students have asked that she stop talking and start listening, and now we're asking her to talk. Generally, the president talks publicly when something goes wrong. But a speech built into the structure of the year would give more regularity to the president's appearances. It would give her a chance to speak proactively on her administrations efforts improve this campus.

Like the United Kingdom or the United States, Middlebury is an institution rich in history. It could benefit from the ceremony of the presidential office. It also needs an accessible discourse on matters of college policy, from judicial processes to dining halls — one in which as many students as possible are involved, in a public forum and not in obscure committee rooms.

Public speeches with a question-and-answer session are healthy for a civil society, especially because they require an institution's leader to outline her vision before a wide audience in plain terms. They also gives an opportunity to question and critique proposals. As we have seen with the current White House's press briefings, the ability to present and defend decisions before a public audience is the mark of a good administration.

Further, the address would bring together all members of the institution to envision Middlebury's future, especially alumni, who have expressed a keen interest in the state of the college in the comments section of this newspaper.

Such a speech runs the risk of descending into grand platitudes that whitewash unpleasant aspects of Middlebury. Our hope is that the president commits to discussing uncomfortable or challenging aspects of the school. It is precisely these that most direly need to be addressed.

In structuring the speech, the president would ideally make a concerted effort to address certain specific topics, not just push the communications office's agenda. Perhaps the SGA could suggest specific topics they would like her to address. As a new campus tradition, this speech should cover issues of importance to Middlebury, much like world leaders talk about specific policies that are relevant to their nations' debates.

This newspaper's reporting has its limitations. Our reporters cannot read the administration's mind, as there is a limit to what they communicate to us in terms of what we bring to students. What's more, trustee meetings are closed to reporters. A public address would give the president and administration a venue to present their voice directly to students without going through The Campus' opinion pages.

To prevent the speech from becoming one-sided, a structured question-and-answer period is essential. What the town hall attempted to do was commendable, but it needs to be structured so that questions receive answers. It also cannot work unless there is mutual trust — trust that students are willing to listen, but also trust that President Patton will speak genuinely to the issues of greatest concern.

The state of the college should be discussed truthfully and openly, without spin, each year. In turn, many members of this institution will listen and ask questions as we collectively chart a new course.

THE LAW SHOULD NOT RESTRICT SPEECH

By LUKAS CARVALHO

Our society is confronting a difficult moment in which the values of liberty that we have always defended conflict with the values of inclusivity, equality and mutual respect. The best example of this conflict is the debate surrounding freedom of speech: should we allow speech in society that directly attacks the core values upon which our democracy is built? Middlebury College had to ask itself this hard question by dealing with the issue of which speakers should be brought in to speak at the college, and, unfortunately, the college has not been able to reconcile these two opposing opinions. Until we see eye to eye on this issue, the different points of view will feel neglected and the rhetoric surrounding the matter will only further divide our community.

I do not claim to provide any clear solution to the matter, yet I would like to address one small aspect of the issue in order to, hopefully, move the debate forward. We must draw a very clear distinction between the measures that we would like to encourage and those which we will encode into government legislation. By this I mean that, for example, even though we should value "respect," it would be absurd to encode this value into the legal system and demand criminal punishment for those who do not follow it. Likewise, we must keep this in mind when discussing what ought to be done to resolve the debate between freedom of speech and values of equality and "inclusivity" (the rallying chant for one of the protests here this semester). I will deal solely with the legal issue on a national level; however, I do acknowledge that the non-legal, community building aspect of the issue is far more complex and requires sensibility to deal with. For this reason, even though the college should follow the federal legislation and not impose punitive measures on speech which is protected by law, it still can promote measures of cultural and social education.

The law serves the function of ensuring that people are able to coexist in society with a certain degree of safety while still ensuring that everyone's rights are protected. Therefore, ideally, it should both protect each individual's rights while ensuring that human dignity is upheld by being sensible to context, intention, and take into account the harm of certain actions. However, the law also has the extra burden of trying to be as objective as possible in order to ensure that we can apply its principle to different situations and have a certain degree of clarity concerning what we are allowed to do. (1) Different courts must be able to interpret the law in order to rule in a similar manner on similar cases. (2) Different legislatures must understand what the overarching laws are in order to be able to create new rules that do not conflict with the overarching principles. (3) Finally, and most importantly, as an individual I must know what my legal protections are and what I am allowed to do/say in society in order to make conscious decisions.

What form would legal restriction on freedom of speech take? The European countries that have instituted some form of restriction have all found that a considerable degree of power must be given to courts in order for those decisions to take into account the context and intent of speech. However, creating this precedent would be problematic if the judicial system can be corrupted, and there are far too many instances in which countries violate the free speech of their citizens for us to be so optimistic. In the United States the historical restrictions of speech have always been used to further oppress minorities, and the current judicial system continues to oppress minorities through the intermittent application of laws — i.e., the enforcement of drug laws unjustly targets the black population of the U.S. Is it really worth taking this risk and giving the courts such corruptible power?

Even if we assume the best intentions of judges and politicians, the effectiveness of enacting legislation that limits speech is very complex, and there is no evidence that proves society as a whole benefits from prohibiting hateful ideas. Banning hate speech could have a great impact on our society and ensure these outdated ideals die off. On the other hand, banning certain speech could bring more visibility to the opinions banned, and give them strength as more people fight the government's oppression by taking on the position that was banned. It would be naive and arrogant to assume that any individual has even a fleeting grasp of the future, and therefore can judge what ought to be done.

There is no way to justly limit freedom of speech and retain the objectivity that we demand of the law. Therefore, the solution to dealing with speech we find distasteful, offensive, disrespectful or uncivil cannot be found in speech restrictions nor legal punishments for speech acts.

WHY ETHIOPIA NEEDS FREE SPEECH

By ISAAC BYRNE

I am aware of what most people imagine when they think of Ethiopia. Probably a scene of starving children, clinging to goats on the side of dirt tracks. While reasonably widespread, this image is not altogether accurate. Over the last few years, parts of Ethiopia have been transformed by an economic miracle. This year alone the Ethiopian economy is predicted to grow by 8.3 percent, which is around four times the global average and makes Ethiopia one of the fastest developing economies in the world. To some, this would seem like a blessing, but in fact, reading those numbers may leave a bitter taste in the mouths of the 91 million residents of the East African regional power.

In 2017, Freedom House gave Ethiopia a freedom rating of 6.5 out of 7, (with one being most open and seven being not free at all). They cited not only the brutal crackdown on protestors that had taken place earlier that year as well as restriction on the internet and mobile phones as reasons for Ethiopia's low score. On top of this, a year earlier, the Ethiopian government jailed 24 Journalists because they were likely to "cause terrorism," and in 2012 three journalists and two opposition leaders were arrested on similar grounds.

The Ethiopian example shows us that while the global North West debates the value of free speech, it is developing nations that need freedom of expression now more than ever if they are going to uphold their democratic human rights.

Free speech is crucial to Ethiopian democracy. Theoretically, Ethiopia has a 528-seat strong representative parliament that has to some degree been elected democratically. In reality, this has not prevented the ruling party from having absolute power over the Ethiopian state for the last 22 years. In that time the party has managed to pass the "Anti-Terrorism Proclamation of 2009", whose rather broad definition of terrorism allowed the Ethiopian government to imprison or attempt to detain several journalists and opposition party leaders.

There is a reason that free expression was codified into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Theorists such as John Stuart Mill, Cass Sunstein and Timothy Garton Ash have all pointed out how crucial free speech is to allowing people to a fulfilled life. This may seem a little strange, but it all centers around the idea of self-fulfilment. If society is not able to express its thoughts freely, it will severely limit an individual's ability to form their own opinions. This is because the sources that an individual can gain access to, in a restrictive place like Ethiopia, will be rather narrow. Thus, people may never be exposed to the vibrant debate that for Mill, is the only way to form a worldview. The next stage in self-fulfillment is the right to express your worldview. Again, for Mill and Garton Ash, it is the purpose of the marketplace of ideas to allow individuals to form and reform their worldview, and thus to mould and re-mould their opinions, and thus become more self-fulfilled.

The beauty of self-fulfillment is that it can be anything to anyone. It is the joy of trying to know what you do not know about yourself, to discover, to explore and to adventure. Middlebury College students will be excited to hear that this does not mean that you have to go outside, self-fulfilment spills from the pages of a life changing book in much the same way as it blows on a forest breeze. Self-fulfilment could even be described as the search for why you and I are here, the very purpose of existence. As such it is more than a crime to rob Ethiopians of this wonder, and make no mistake, that is what the combination of an unresponsive government and speech-restrictive laws are doing.

Many would hold this view to be nonsense, particularly in the context of Africa and Ethiopia. How is it that I, despite my Ethiopian heritage, can criticise a country that I have never lived in, or even seen for the last 7 years? For some this is the epitome of neo-colonialism. These people might further this point by noting that arguing for free speech and self-fulfillment, requires one to make a value claim; that freedom is more important than order. What if Ethiopians are happy with the current state of their free speech? What if they would rather have unity than freedom? What right do I have to claim that the western values of individualism are superlative to the concept of tribe, family and state?

I accept that there is an inherent value claim at the centre of my argument, but if I don't have the right to make it, then what right does the Ethiopian government have to enforce its value claim, of unity, on the rest of Ethiopia?

Equally, if there was a such a clear-cut consensus on what Ethiopian norms are, why were they arresting people and putting down large, widely spread protests in the first place?

The point is that cultures changes. Not ideally, not instantly, but incrementally. Episodes like the Arab spring and Glasnost have shown how this process is natural and to some extent, inevitable.

Therefore, using culture as a defence for the harms of ruling party current speech-restrictive policies is like placing a castle on quicksand, structurally unsound and likely to collapse rather violently in the future.

Ethiopia needs free speech, or more specifically the Ethiopian people need free speech, if they are going to have any sort of control over their destiny.

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

By MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

This letter, dated April 16, 1963, is being published in honor of Dr. King. It has been abridged for print.

[...] I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the prophets of the eighth century B.C. left their villages and carried their "thus saith the Lord" far beyond the boundaries of their home towns, and just as the Apostle Paul left his village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to the far corners of the Greco-Roman world, so am I compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my own home town. Like Paul, I must constantly respond to the Macedonian call for aid.

Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds. [...]

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct action campaign that was "well timed" in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God given rights. The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jetlike speed toward gaining political independence, but we still creep at horse and buggy pace toward gaining a cup of coffee at a lunch counter. Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, "Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six year old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five year old son who is asking: "Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?"; when you take a cross county drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you; when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading "white" and "colored"; when your first name becomes "n[—]," your middle name becomes "boy" (however old you are) and your last name becomes "John," and your wife and mother are never given the respected title "Mrs."; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness" — then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait. [...]

I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Counciler or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection. [...]

I wish you had commended the Negro sit inners and demonstrators of Birmingham for their sublime courage, their willingness to suffer and their amazing discipline in the midst of great provocation. One day the South will recognize its real heroes. They will be the James Merediths, with the noble sense of purpose that enables them to face jeering and hostile mobs, and with the agonizing loneliness that characterizes the life of the pioneer. They will be old, oppressed, battered Negro women, symbolized in a seventy two year old woman in Montgomery, Alabama, who rose up with a sense of dignity and with her people decided not to ride segregated buses, and who responded with ungrammatical profundity to one who inquired about her weariness: "My feets is tired, but my soul is at rest." They will be the young high school and college students, the young ministers of the gospel and a host of their elders, courageously and nonviolently sitting in at lunch counters and willingly going to jail for conscience' sake. [...]

Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.

Diplomat and Scholar Discusses Current European Union Issues

By BENJY RENTON
Features Editor

The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Club launched their annual Winter Term lecture series with a lecture from Paul Zajac titled "Is There a Future for the European Union?," the first of three lectures in the series. This is the third time the club has organized the lecture series, bringing in speakers to speak on topics relating to politics and economics.

Zajac is a French career diplomat and visiting fellow at the AEI in Washington, D.C., where he focuses on Europe,the European Union (EU) and transatlantic security issues. Having a background in European security affairs, Zajac has previously held multiple teaching and diplomatic posts in Paris. He holds master's degrees in public affairs, international politics and modern history from Sciences-Po, the Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris 2) and the Université Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1) respectively.

President of the AEI Club Phil Hoxie '17.5 introduced the lecture as the first in the club's series of annual lectures over January, with the other two taking place in the following weeks. This is the third time the club has organized the lecture series, bringing in speakers to speak on topics relating to politics and economics.

Zajac started his lecture by challenging a common American misconception that the European Union will disappear after the Brexit vote and with the rise of Euroskepticism. There were tensions within member states and Russia was in the process of undermining EU unity. With crises in Syria and Libya and elections in three European states, the EU has undergone major changes in 2017.

Zajac spoke to the impact of President Trump's election on Europe as well.

"Europeans were faced for the first time in history with the possibility of having a US president hostile to the EU project," he said. However, he also observed that in the year since the election, "the EU seems to be able to weather these crises for the time being."

A new rise of populist, anti-EU forces in elections represents a change in political landscapes across the continent. In the United Kingdom, Zajac believes that the situation is still quite unstable in the aftermath of the Brexit vote.

"The shockwaves of Brexit are still affecting London politics," he said. The French election was a race between two centrist candidates for the EU and two extremist candidates against the EU. Winner and centrist Emmanuel Macron was the first candidate in decades to run on a pro-EU platform, embracing the changes occurring within political landscapes.

"What he said was that the left-right divide was artificial," Zajac said. Zajac also updated the audience with reviews of recent elections in Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Slovenia.

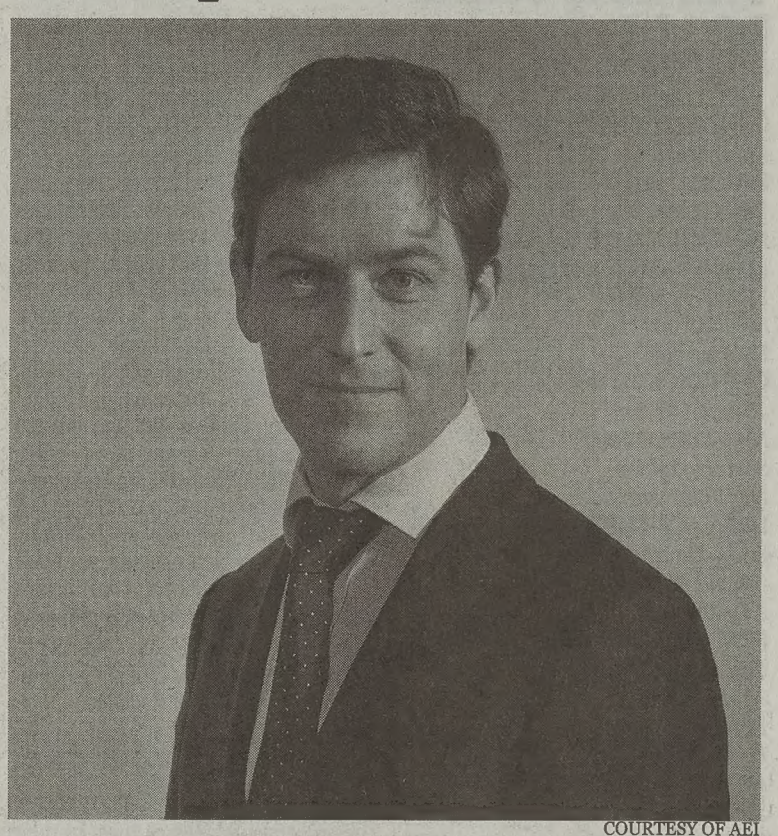
Having summarized these challenges, Zajac continued his lecture by discussing three main topics for a path forward for the EU. First, he believes that the EU must complete the integration of the Eurozone, the monetary union consisting of 19 of the 28 EU member states that have adopted the euro as their common currency. This can be achieved through a common budget spearheaded by Macron. Next, the EU must tackle immigration issues in light of recent immigration crises. This includes setting up an external border out of the Schengen Area and devising similar policies across the EU's member states for asylum seekers. Zajac remains optimistic about these policy implementations.

"The EU has made quite a lot of progress if you consider the difficulty of these issues concerning national borders," he said. Defense is the third area in Zajac's plan. Members of the EU must take several steps to improve defense among themselves to promote what Macron calls "l'Europe qui protège."

Having proposed this plan, Zajac believes it must appear at the forefront of French and German governments.

"Reconciling France and Germany is a starting point...there is no single issue on which the French and Germans agree," Zajac said to a chuckling audience.

Even with these steps, there are challenges that must be overcome for the continuation of a strong EU. The need for deeper structural reforms in the Eurozone, the desire for a stronger immigration link and the growing east-west divide originating in Russia are three issues the EU must overcome in the next few years.



COURTESY OF AEI
Visiting fellow Paul Zajac addressed an audience in the Warner Hemicycle on the future of the European Union.

Concluding his lecture, Zajac noted that the there is an ongoing debate as to what values the EU should stand for. While every European state agrees that they must complete the Schengen Zone, "when it comes to values and nature of democracies, it will be much harder and much more tense," Zajac said. "Historically, the European Union has been conceived by our founding fathers as a technocratic construct that needed to be shielded from national politics and create sovereignty." However, now that the member states are interconnected, the EU has become more transparent and its members must adapt to the democratization of EU politics.

The next lecture in the AEI Club's series will be by Assistant Professor of Economics Obie Porteous and will discuss technology in Africa.

Cathy Davidson Speaks About Modern University System

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Features Editor

On the evening of Wed., Jan. 10, members of the College community gathered at Dana Auditorium to hear the talk, "The New Education: How to Revolutionize the University to Prepare Students for a World in Flux." The talk focused on how the current system of higher education was designed to meet the needs of an increasingly industrialized, late 19th century United States. It showed how such a system is incapable of preparing students for today's highly digitalized and multicultural society, since it fails to promote creativity, innovation, and social leadership among its students.

The speaker, Cathy N. Davidson, is a distinguished professor of English, and the founding director of the Futures Initiative at the City University of New York Graduate Center.. Davidson is also the co-founding director of HASTAC, (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory). Laurie Patton provided her introduction.

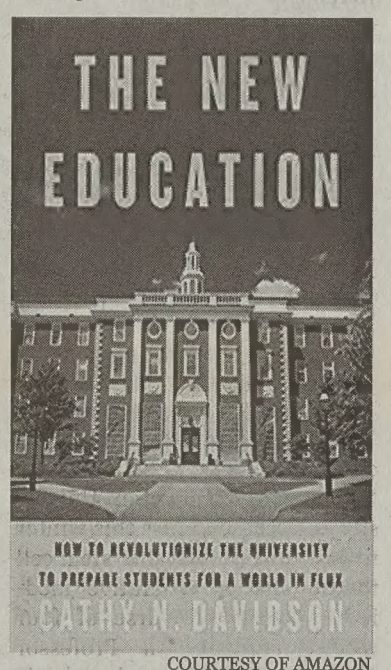
Davidson began with the story of Charles Eliot, who studied theoretical sciences at Harvard University in 1853 and was a professor of Mathematics and Chemistry at the same institution in 1858. Controlled by clergymen, Harvard's educational system followed a Puritanical model at the time, offering mostly courses in classical curricula, with few dedicated towards practical studies, such as the sciences or business. Eliot eventually left Harvard and travelled to Europe to investigate how their methods of education correlated with economic growth. Among Eliot's discoveries was a system dedicated toward teaching technical knowledge and skills for essential occupations and trades.

Eliot believed that the United States was growing into a technological force, but the existing educational system was unable to prepare students for such a future. In an article for the Atlantic Monthly called "The New Education", Eliot suggested than in education, while students should strive for moral character, they should learn to sharpen and exercise their intellect, so they can utilize it to sustain and transform society. Eliot was named President of Harvard at the age of 53.

A new, more efficient educational system began to emerge in the United States following Eliot's tenure at Harvard. Secondary schools allowed farmers to become factory workers, while higher education allowed shopkeepers to become managers. Higher education now offered majors and minors, offering courses comprised of lectures and seminars. Such a system became reliant on placement exams for entering universities, and determined the educational success of a student through an "ABCDF" grading scale. To legitimize the existence of universities, graduate schools and secondary schools, a credentialing system was created.

The second part of Davidson's talk focused on the present, and touched upon the rise of the internet since the early 1990s. She pointed out how the computer makes it possible to communicate ideas without interference from third-parties like corporations. According to Davidson, we live in a "new era in human connection and reach". She then presented examples of educational institutions attempting to revolutionize the current methods of learning. Yale University utilizes a "cohort" instead of a "core" model for obtaining a degree in history, offering "Pre-Professional" and "Global" tracks. As a result, history has become Yale's most highly enrolled major. In another example, Hampshire College removed SAT or ACT score requirements from its admissions processes, and is no longer ranked by U.S World New and Report. This resulted in an admissions yield increase from 18% to 26%, and an increase in diversity by 21%.

Towards the end of the talk, the audience was invited to respond to the prompt, "What three things would you revolutionize about your institution and how?" on a piece of paper. Groups sizes of between three and five shared their answers amongst themselves.



COURTESY OF AMAZON
Cathy N. Davidson is the author of "The New Education."

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
Brothers Ali and Atman Smith with Co founder Andy Gonzalez of the Holistic Life Foundation.

Holistic Life Foundation Visits, Celebrating MLK's Commitment to Nonviolent Healing

By EMMA PATCH
Features Editor

While other colleges and universities close offices and cancel classes in honor of Martin Luther King Day, the college chose to host a series of events to commemorate his legacy, ultimately presenting the student body as well as the community with a unique opportunity to learn about the important practices and beliefs Dr. King championed throughout his life.

One of the MLK featured events this past weekend attracted a substantial crowd in Wilson Hall at the McCullough Student center, as the event held honored Dr. King's commitment to non-violence. Through the support of various departments, the founders of the Holistic Life Foundation from Baltimore came to speak to students, faculty, staff and community members Sunday afternoon. Opening remarks made by a representative from the Scott Center for Religious and Spiritual life placed the talk within the context of spirituality and history by sharing a moving quote of Dr. King's.

"In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...This is the inter-related structure of reality," said Laurie Jordan, quoting one of Dr. Martin Luther King's letters from a Birmingham Alabama prison.

On that note, Ali Smith, Atman Smith, and Andy Gonzalez began their discussion. Their work teaching contemplative practice in underserved schools in Baltimore is reducing disciplinary problems among students. Before delving into the founding of the Holistic Life Foundation the speakers set the tone of their talk with a group meditation.

"This is a love and kindness practice," Smith said. According to Smith, the meditation practice was inspired by human nature's penchant for loving other people before serving oneself.

In guiding the crowd through a ten-minute-long meditation in which audience members were encouraged to focus on breathing and expelling all negative energies, Smith united the audience and established a space conducive to conversation.

Following the group meditation, the leaders reflected on the path that led to their roles as facilitators of mindfulness through mediation and yoga, sharing personal stories that connected with students on a very real level.

"Our love of hip hop and beer was what brought us together to form the holistic life foundation" said Smith, jokingly recalling the early days of their journey into the realm of philosophical exploration and mindful practices when they studied together at the University of Maryland.

But it was when the Smith brothers and Gonzalez were in Baltimore together post-graduation that the evolution of their personal relationships into one of mutually encouraged intellectual exploration ultimately took place.

"We saw a lot of suffering. We saw a lot of pain" Ali Smith said, on a more serious note. The Holistic Life Foundation founders felt that despite being college-educated adults, their lessons and degrees fell short of answering the questions that really plagued them. The more research into contemplative practices and various schools of philosophical thought that their curiosities led them to, the more questions they felt they had.

Wrestling with dilemmas testing the limits of the human experience, and living in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Baltimore then granted the soon to be founders of the Holistic Life Foundation with a rare opportunity, the chance to transform inner-city America through contemplative practice.

Today, they have achieved great success. A feature in Mindful Magazine revealed how their work is reducing disciplinary problems among students in underserved schools in Baltimore. The foundation is delivering an assortment of after school, mentoring, environmental education, and leadership training programs. The talk was extremely well received and speaks to the value of pursuing paths to community healing via contemplative practice.

MCAB: The Week Ahead

THURSDAY

TRIVIA

January 18 at 9 pm at Crossroads Café

FRIDAY

LEAN IN DISCUSSION

January 19 from 12 to 1:30 pm at the Orchard - Hillcrest

WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE

January 19 from 5 to 6:30 pm in Wilson Hall

GOLDEN BOY MUSIC GROUP LIVE AT COLTRANE

January 19 at 8:30 pm in Coltrane Lounge

Esteemed Pianist Serenades College

By BILAL KHAN
Senior Writer

Friday Jan. 12, pianist Shai Wosner graced Robinson Hall at the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts. He arrived in all-black, and as the lights dimmed and the hall applauded, Wosner took his place by the grand gold Steinway. As his fingers began to slide and glide on the piano, I slowly fell into a reverie.

SILVIA CANTU-BAUTISTA
Pianist Shai Wosner performed at the MCA last Friday night.

Wosner's renditions of Schubert's piano sonatas are consecutively violent and delicate, loud and soft, and exaggerate both aspects. The fingers came down hard on the keys, and the pianist's body mirrored the aggression of the louder parts. These powerful and passionate sections often took us by surprise, as a result of Wosner's deliberate decision to enhance the contrast.

Wosner was at his best, however, when the piece got softer, subtler, faster. Then his fingers would glide and upon closing your eyes you really would be transported to the fantastic, the ethereal. Then the piano would sing, and you could dance.

In Wosner's own words, these six sonatas are like, "six thick novels, rich with insights about the human condition." They have an "enveloping quality" which gives him a sense of "communing" with the audience. On Friday night, as he gradually moved into yet another of the softer sections of the "Fantasie" (Sonata No. 18 in G Major), I began to understand what he meant.

This performance was part of his recently launched recital series "Schubert: The Great Sonatas." Since the beginning of his career, he's engaged with the composer's music and has been described by Gramophone as a "Schubertian of unfaltering authority and character." In the 2017-18 season, he will go on to perform Schubert's last six piano sonatas in New York, Washington, D.C. and other venues throughout the United States and Japan.

A resident New Yorker, Wosner was born in Israel and received a comprehensive education in music from a young age, first at home and later at The Juilliard School. Currently, other than performing extensively on the classical music circuit and recording with Onyx Classics, he also sits on the faculty at the Longy School of Music in Boston.

As the pianist in the annual Sophie Shao and Friends concert, Wosner has performed here in Middlebury before. Deeply impressed by his skill and talent, the then series director Paul Nelson immediately engaged him for a solo recital. Now, after the multiple standing ovations Mr. Wosner received here in the MCA on Friday night, I have no doubt we will see him again in the (hopefully) near future.

Visiting Prof Studies Mechanisms of Cancer

By CAROLINE JASCHKE
Staff Writer

Visiting Professor and Postdoctoral Research Fellow Julie Merkle from Princeton University is offering a class this winter term on the potential of stem cell therapy and regenerative medicine. Over the course of four weeks, students in Professor Merkle's class will explore basic stem cell biology, cell differentiation, gene editing and regenerative medicine. The class will also discuss policies regulating stem cell research and the creative ways scientists have found to circumvent these.

"I hope," Merkle said in an interview, "that the students come away with an appreciation for the research that has brought us to the point of the exciting advancements we have made in the stem cell world and with an excitement for the potential therapeutics in medicine. I hope they also learn a bit about the bioethics surrounding stem cells."

Merkle's own research at Princeton utilizes a specialized type of stem cell, known as germline stem cells, to examine the mechanisms involved in cell division because of the implications defects in this division can have for human diseases such as cancer. Cancer, for example, is caused by the continued, unregulated division of cells. Merkle, therefore, examines the genetic mutations that produce defects in this division process to better understand what can go wrong.

Germline stem cells produce gametes, which are the reproductive cells known as eggs and sperm. In order for the germline stem cells to produce gametes, they must undergo a process of cell division known as meiosis. During meiosis, the chromosomes exchange genetic material through a process called crossing-over. This creates genetic diversity. Essentially, two chromosomes pair-up and then each chromosome breaks off a small section and swaps that section with the other chromosome, so that each chromosome ends up with a small portion of the other chromosome's DNA.

Because it induces and repairs double-strand breaks in the chromosomes, the crossing-over process involves many of the DNA damage and repair proteins that are needed in all cells of an organism to repair mistakes, called mutations.

"These proteins are a typical part of cell division, including mitosis, and act as checkpoints that prevent 'genetic instability,'" Merkle said.

Mitosis, like meiosis, is a process of cell division used to create new cells. If properly working, the checkpoints Merkle speaks of should either tell the cell to stop dividing and repair the DNA damage or should recognize a problem and instruct the cell to die. Failure of these checkpoints leads to "genetic instability," which is the continuation of cell division that causes cancer.

"By learning more about DNA double-strand break formation and repair," Merkle said, "hopefully that will shed some light on the mechanisms causing cancer."

She examines these questions by specifically looking at cell division for the production of reproductive cells in Drosophila melanogaster, the common fruit fly.

"The fruit fly makes a good model organism because 75% of the disease-causing genes found in humans are conserved in flies and most of the time these genes are involved in the same cell processes in flies as in humans," Merkle said. What's more, flies are cheap, have a short life cycle and their genetics are somewhat simple.

In lab, Merkle induces mutations in female flies to create sterile female flies that are unable to produce eggs. Since making an egg involves cell division, or meiosis, one of the defects produced by mutation may affect this process. After inducing these mutations, Merkle sequences the genome and looks for the mutation within the sequence to determine what gene the mutation is in and whether the gene is also found in other organisms. Merkle studies the mutations of about 20 different genes.

One of the genes Merkle works with has been found to be highly mutated in patients with colorectal cancer. Eventually, after performing many different experiments, Merkle and her lab found that the gene is involved in repairing DNA double-strand breaks. Mutation in this gene causes defective repair of DNA, which triggers the checkpoint to recognize a problem and tell the cell to die. Therefore, no egg is produced and the fly is sterile. Cancer, however, is caused when this checkpoint fails to recognize the problem and the cell continues to divide.

"It's very exciting to find a gene that is linked to humans and to realize you're able to discover something no one else has studied," Merkle said. By identifying this gene and its function, researchers may be able to address cancer-causing defects.

"I really hope the information we gain by studying flies could help diagnose and treat patients with colorectal cancer," she added. "In the future, I hope to take what we learn about in flies and apply it to research in human cell lines."

For the month of January, students in Merkle's class will benefit from Merkle's experience in the stem cell field through discussions on stem cells and their therapeutic potential.

"Julie is teaching us basic science research skills like reading a paper, while also helping us use critical analysis to discuss the papers," Samantha Gaines '18 said. "This could be helpful in later jobs and future classes."

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senoir Columnist

Literatures and cultures librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic department, the French department, the Gender Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS Program), the Language Schools, Linguistics and the Spanish & Portuguese departments. These affiliations are reflected in her reading choices. "While I am a very slow reader, I'm a very critical reader," she says.

"Ce n'est pas toi que j'attendais" ("I Wasn't Expecting You") by Fabien Toulmé

DAVIS LIBRARY

Pages: 243

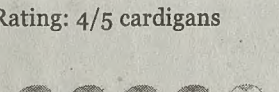
THE WHAT

This memoir traces the tale of a French father who, along with his Brazilian wife, discovers that his second-born daughter, Julia, has Down syndrome. Author Toulmé does a fabulous job in exposing the raw emotions he felt upon learning of his daughter's condition and, in the end, helps to reduce the stigma of the disorder. Toulmé's growth and adjustment is laborious and long-coming; depressed and confused for months following Julia's birth, he is unable to actively love and emotionally connect with Julia. For a while, he cannot convince himself that she belongs to him and he fears what the syndrome means for the autonomy he expected for her in her adulthood. Furthermore, Toulmé and his wife, Patricia, must decide how they will present their daughter to their relatives and friends outside of the nuclear family unit. Patricia's conflict in accepting Julia is less fraught, though she is nonetheless afraid given her daughter must undergo open-heart surgery quite early in life to correct a valve that prevents Julia's blood from being properly oxygenated. The couple ultimately succeeds in re-framing their relationship to their daughter, although the narrative suggests that they will spend the rest of their lives educating others to see their loved one as they do.

THE WHY

I have taken five French courses over the past 11 years and am always looking for ways to maintain the meager amount of knowledge I have of the language. While I doubt my spoken French is at all impressive, I can manage with a book, especially considering graphic novels offer a good deal of visual aid. The foreign language browsing collection on the main level of Davis Family Library (near the Faculty Authors' Wall) is my favorite part of our holdings and I'm always looking for ways to add to it. When I first came across "Ce n'est pas toi que j'attendais," its cover depicting a baby's crib cast in shadows, I suspected it would be a strong addition to our collection. It is curious that this work has taught me more about Down syndrome than I knew before. It is commendable for its sensitivity and labor of love in teaching a broad audience about the impact a genetic disorder can have on a family and some of the ways the family sought support in raising a child with a health condition outside of the norm.

Rating: 4/5 cardigans



The hand-drawn illustrations must have taken an immense amount of effort to develop, given that the publication is over 200 pages long. Toulmé challenges what we think of when we distinguish graphic novels from novels; this piece is certainly a hybrid.

The author perhaps takes too much time in 50 pages, however, to establish the sense of normalcy surrounding his life before Julia is born. Some of that time is used to compare systems of medical care in Brazil and France.

DON'T MISS THIS

Fridays at the Museum
Join Caroline Knapp '18, a joint major in History of Art and Architecture and Classics, as she presents her senior work in process on the museum's recently acquired and richly storied portrait from Fayum, Egypt. Part of the Fridays at the Museum series. Free
1/19, Friday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., MCA, 125

Hirschfield Series- Chasing Coral
Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world. Admission: Free
1/20, Saturday, 3-5:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium

Film Screening: Jiro Dreams of Sushi
The acclaimed documentary Jiro Dreams of Sushi will be screened as part of the current J-term class Building the Japanese Boat. A short discussion of the film will follow the screening. All are welcome.
1/22, Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Bihall 219

Reel Critic: Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

By DEVIN McGRATH-CONWELL
Senior Columnist

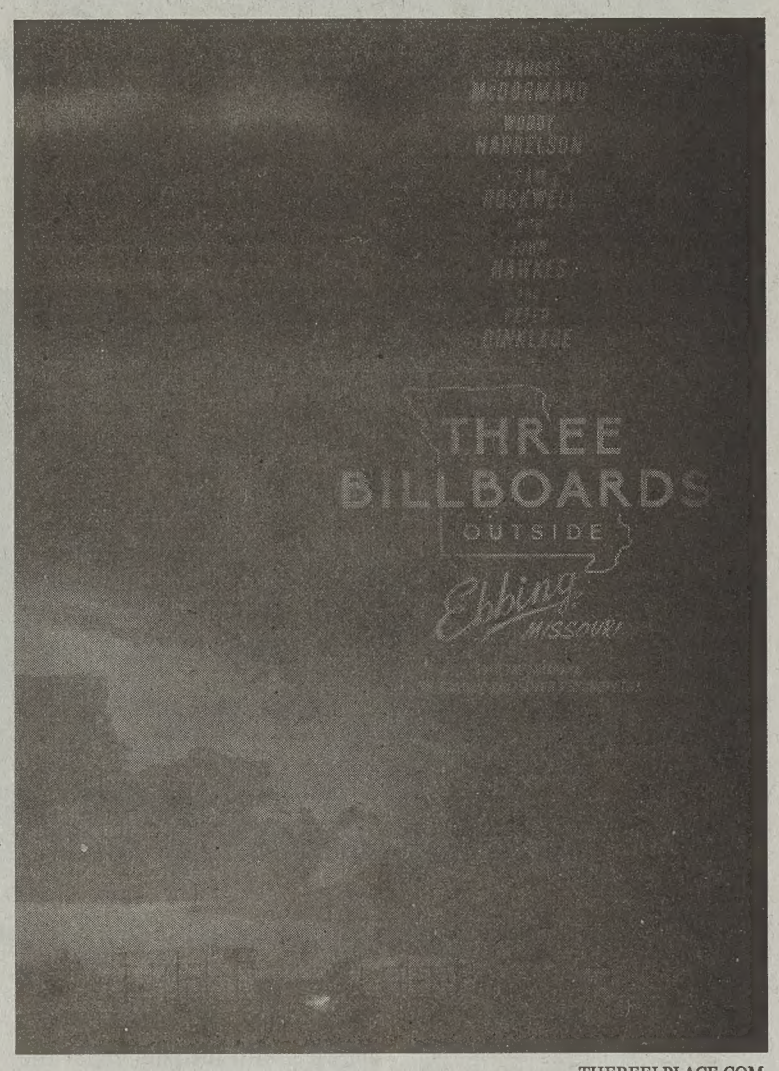
Irish playwright Martin McDonagh made his directorial debut with "In Bruges" (2008). That movie told the story of two affable hit men hiding out in Bruges after a killing gone wrong. Four years later, he followed it up with "Seven Psychopaths" (2012) about a screenwriter roped into an odyssey of malice and idiocy surrounding a stolen dog and an angry mob boss. These films are characterized by gorgeously wrought dialogue interspersed with scenes of often stunning violence filled out by leads who have none of the noble or restrained characteristics of your average protagonist. They are foul-mouthed, foul-tempered and violent, a step beyond simple anti-hero. McDonagh revels in human imperfection and does not shy from the complexity of emotion. "In Bruges" and "Seven Psychopaths" both did wonderful jobs of conveying this, but in his newest film, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" (2017), he seems to perfect it.

The film tells the story of Mildred Hayes (Frances McDormand), who rents out the eponymous billboards to put pressure on the local police department led by town celebrity Chief Willoughby (Woody Harrelson). Mildred thinks they have failed to aptly investigate her daughter Angela's (Kathryn Newton) violent rape and murder because nearly a year after the event no arrests have been made. The billboards, in bright red and black, read "Raped while dying. / And still no arrests? / How come, Chief Willoughby?" Her billboards have the desired effect, bringing Willoughby and his second-in-command Officer Dixon (Sam Rockwell) to attention. The billboards divide the small town of Ebbing, Missouri, many feeling that it is unfair towards Willoughby, who is dying of cancer. Life in Ebbing seems to center around one main street, where the advertising agency that owns the billboards sits across from the police department. Apart from the gift shop where Mildred works, the billboards, and her home, we see her nowhere else. But the town intrudes to offer their opinions. Father Montgomery (Nick Searcy), the town priest, comes to Mildred, telling her: "Everyone's on your side about Angela. No one's on your side about these billboards." However, he is wrong about that. The film unfolds just as Dixon characterizes it, as a "war" between Mildred, who refuses to allow her daughter's death to fade away, and those who would rather it be stricken from the public eye.

In this sense, "Three Billboards" is at its core a brilliant character study that centers on Mildred. She is motivated by a pure fury that is equaled only by her grief, and we empathize in a profound way with this image of a mother who wants nothing more than justice for her daughter. Yet, Mildred has the general disposition of sandpaper, grating and irritating almost everyone and everything she comes into contact with, employing a rather majestic lack of restraint. She is the character we needed in 2017: a woman who refuses to take shit from anyone and who will follow her gut through any debris that may fall in her way. McDonagh writes for Mildred some of the most affecting lines he ever has, and she is brought to life by Frances McDormand.

McDormand is, in my eyes at least, the single most talented actress alive today. Looking at her filmography, from "Fargo" (1996) to "Moonrise Kingdom" (2012), she has never turned in a bad performance, whether she sits at the center of the plot or as a supporting figure. She disappears into her roles, mastering different accents and physical ticks to accentuate each character. Here, decked out in a red bandana and a blue jumpsuit for most of the film, she seems a direct dismissal of the classic 'leading lady.' Even at a dinner date later in the film she stays in this outfit, presenting a clear message to the town and the viewer: this woman cares little for what you may think of her, only concerned with delivering the justice her daughter deserves. When Father Montgomery delivers his criticism in her kitchen, she leans in the doorway and delivers what may be the finest speech McDonagh has ever written about the culpability of Catholic priests, and how little right he has to criticize her. It is deft, measured, and somehow, hilarious. McDormand finds the core of McDonagh's writing, giving the performance of her career.

All of this is filmed with an elegance and beauty that gives the film the sheen I would imagine William Faulkner's novels would look like if brought to life. The mountains that rise above the billboards convey a sense of scope and sadness with the mist rolling from their peaks, a range of crying giants with their gazes fixed on Mildred's grief. McDonagh alternates between breathtaking long shots of the town and landscape and close ups of the people that populate them. We see them and the town as they see each other, up in their faces with little ability to stretch out and look away. This makes the interspersal of medium shots that much more of a punctuation. Mildred awaiting Willoughby's interrogation at the police station stands out to me as one of the most beautiful shots in the film: light filters through the drawn shades while she sits behind a beige desk, arms crossed, defiance radiating from her every pore. McDonagh picks his images carefully, staging two pivotal conversations about Angela's death with Mildred sitting beside Willoughby first, and Dixon second, on a set of swings. McDonagh focuses our attention on the innocence suggested by the swings, an instrument of childhood, and then contrasts it with the gut-wrenching description of the crimes committed and what has been done to investigate them.



THEREELPLACE.COM

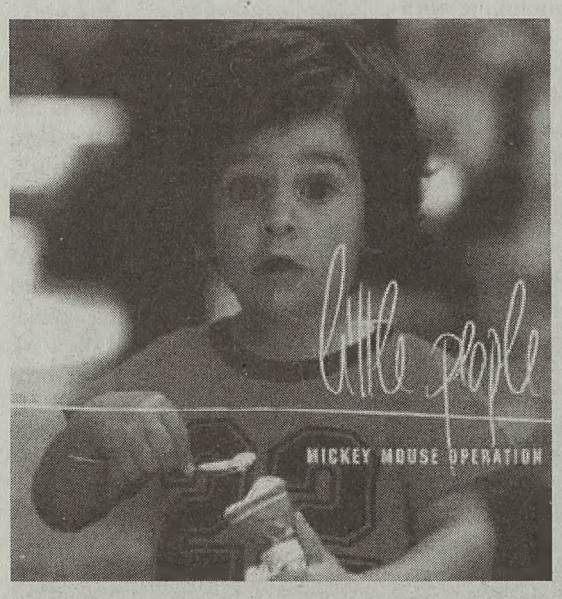
'Stagey' or 'theatrical' have often been treated as dirty words when it comes to movies. No director wants their movie to seem like it's just a play that has been photographed, but I think the blanket statement misses the intricacy of theatrics. McDonagh is primarily a playwright, and I believe it is this sensibility that makes his movies so well constructed. There is not a wasted word in his script, and within the composition of each scene his motifs and focus bring our attention right where he wants it. You have such limited visual ability on stage that you must be quite precise about what you fill the space with. It is this theatrical intuition that makes Three Billboards so effective; each image, word, and detail seems to have been considered with such attention that they fit together in nearly flawless fashion. It makes me wish that McDonagh would increase his output, giving us more than one movie every four or five years. But, then again, if each of them is as good as this, it's well worth the wait.

Five Hot Albums For A Cold Day

By NATE OBBARD
Contributing Writer

With the little bit of extra time this J-Term can provide, it is as good a time as any to discover new music. Here are a couple albums that could have slipped your radar in your lifetime, spanning from the early 2000s to now. If finding new music proves difficult or daunting, these fantastic works may be the place to find your next beloved artist.

Grandaddy — "Sumday" — While Grandaddy is a group with their roots in punk culture (their founder was a professional skateboarder), they were quick to find their own sound, supplanting the harsh punk power chords with synth and overproduced guitar to create a dreamier sound that isn't quite folk, pop, or rock, but is remarkably cohesive in a way most of these conglomerative styles aren't. "Sumday" is their artistic peak, and manages to be one of their most calming albums while teeming with intricate production and catchy riffs. An unheralded masterpiece, it deserves a listen from anyone looking for something to relax to.



DISCOGS.COM

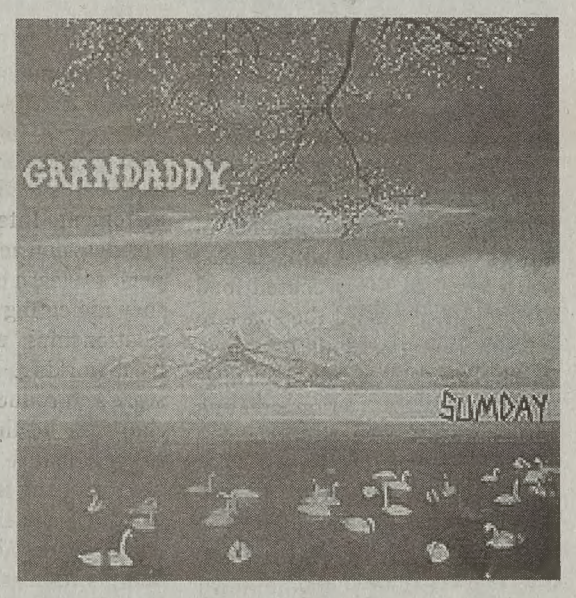
Little People — "Mickey Mouse Operation" — This is one of the most impressive and consistent (mostly) instrumental / sample-heavy albums I've ever listened to. Half the tracks sound like they could be the instrumentals to some 90s rapper you've never heard of, but the beats stand out on their own as rhythmic and entrancing. A mix of piano, strings, percussion (I believe most of it is sampled, but impressive nonetheless) and electronic sounds make for a listening experience that stays remarkably true to itself while remaining packed with variety and avoiding the repetition that plagues so many instrumental works.

Julian Casablancas + The Voidz — "Tyranny" — This side project by The Strokes' lead vocalist isn't what fans of the band will expect, but it might be the best thing he's been involved with since "Room on Fire." The experimental LP takes its sound from industrial, punk, and simple innovation, with unique beats, unintelligible vocals, and swarming production that makes it impossible to digest in a single listen. It's a controversial experiment, having received a 4.9 from Pitchfork,, for what little that's worth, but the album is filled with ridiculous highs and tragic lows.The distortion hides the sometimes on-the-nose, sometimes meaningless lyrics behind an aesthetic, inimitable listening experience.

EDEN — "End Credits" — The newest discovery from me on this list, EDEN is quickly becoming one of my favorite pop-electronica artists. Irish musician Jonathan Ng got his start as an EDM artist with The Eden Project, but has slowly transitioned toward blending The Eden Project's dance roots with poppier vocals and instrumentation. "End Credits" is his first project under his rebranded name EDEN, and it's a hell of an EP. The devotion to electronica is still obvious while also pockmarked with slower ballads and wonderful vocals. All his work is wonderful (check out his cover of "Billie Jean"), but this one's devotion to his electronic roots, less obvious in his newer EP, "i think you think too much of me," means "End Credits" encapsulates all of EDEN's artistic talents in just seven tracks.

Archive — "You All Look The Same To Me" — Archive is hard to pin down, but this album is one of the best things to come out of the early 2000s. It's very clearly a product of its time, especially in the vocals and giveaways like the repetitive piano ballads, but there's nothing else quite like it. It might be one of the greatest 'downer' albums of the century. If seasonal depression has you down, it's the perfect listen. The opening, 16-minute 'Again,' is flush with sounds of loneliness, regret, and bitterness, all of which is channeled wonderfully through the production, which somehow wears its era on its sleeve while also seeming timeless. Its innovative tricks make the instrumentation alone worth the listen. I've never met anyone who listens to Archive, and that's a shame, because this album is an absolute masterpiece.

Happy J-Term, everybody!



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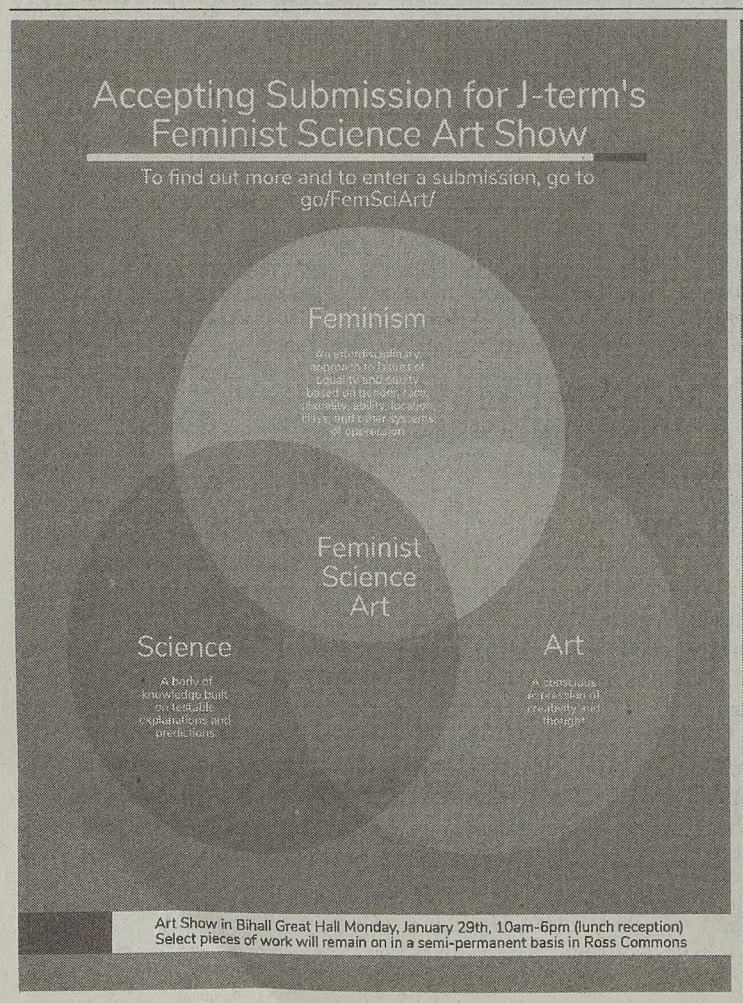
Accepting Submission for J-term's
Feminist Science Art Show
To find out more and to enter a submission, go to
go/FemSciArt/
Feminism
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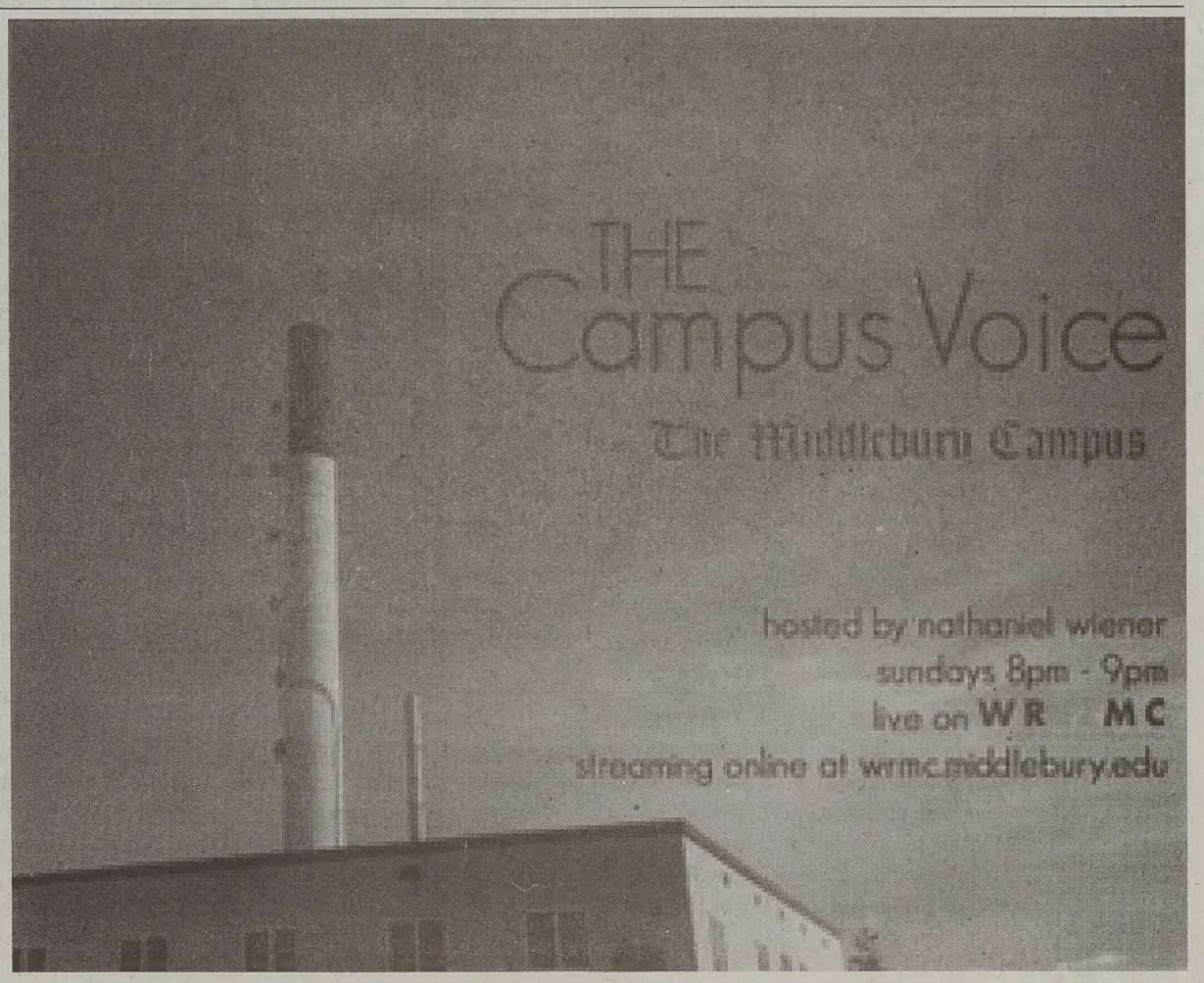
Art Show in Bihall Great Hall Monday, January 29th, 10am-6pm (lunch reception)
Select pieces of work will remain on in a semi-permanent basis in Ross Commons



Natural Foods Co-op Celebrates Expansion

By NINA CALLAHAN
Contributing Writer

The phrase "grocery store" does not encapsulate the dynamic environment of the Co-op. Founded in the 1970s, the space has been a pillar of the Middlebury town for both college students and locals. For members, there are constant deals on ever changing products, and for all shoppers the selection of items continually rotates. From prepared foods to household objects, the Co-op carries products that incorporate aspects of environmental protection and social justice. Certifications of "fair-trade" and "organic" are ubiquitous at the store, representing the store's core values. Furthermore, these qualities attract high membership involvement and partnerships with various Vermont based companies. These strong relationships have led to the transformation of the Middlebury Co-op.

An 8-month-long endeavor has increased the physical size of the space from 5,000 to 9,000 square feet, strengthening the presence of the Co-op. Middlebury locals witnessed the beginnings of the renovation this past summer. Many individuals have remarked on the improved flow and movement within the space. The larger entrance, increased number of aisles, expanded seating areas, and growth of the prepared food section have allowed the space to flourish. The community aspect of the Co-op has only been augmented by its renovation, creating more spaces for people to congregate with friends and family.

In addition to strengthening relationships, the expansion has allowed the Co-op to bring more healthy, sustainable, food to town members. The additional space allows the store to find creative, cutting edge products for its shelves. New features include an aisle devoted to alcoholic beverages as well as the enlargement of the kitchen area. In addition to the cheese section, more available 'to-go' options have provided customers with an experiential way to taste items from around the world.

The Co-op has also brought in local producers of items like granola bars to offer tastings for shoppers. In doing so, they not only support the local economy but also bring the individual closer to what they consume. Many have remarked that the Co-op has dramatically changed their interaction with food.

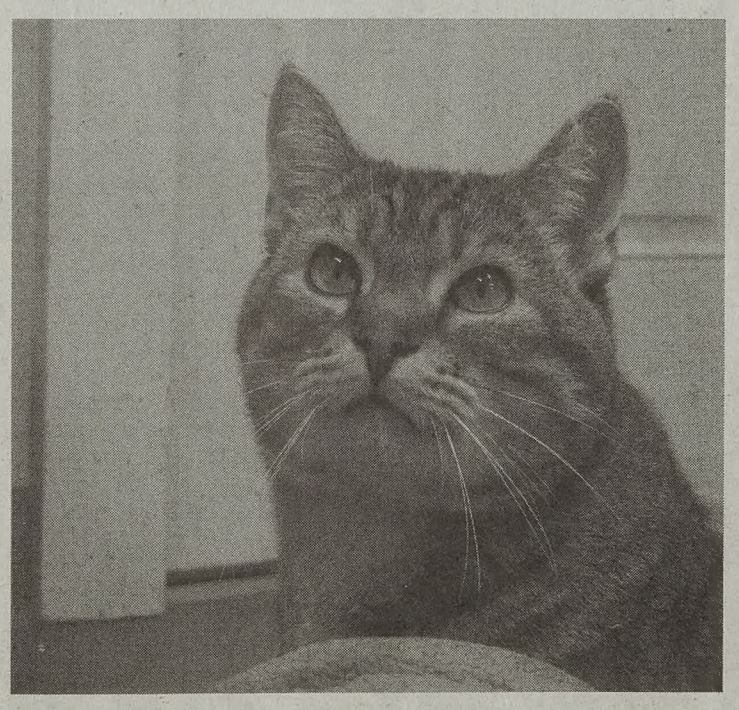
Blake Yaccino '20 explained that the cheese selection has provided her with an educational experience to learn about the various types, processes and locations of producers and gain knowledge about the importance of the dairy industry in Vermont. When asked what words come to mind when she thinks of the Co-op Yaccino stated, "healthy, wholesome and welcoming." She is very happy to see that the new renovations, in particular the indoor seating area, have made it a more spacious environment.

Regular customers hope the Co-op continues to bring in additional food entrepreneurs in the coming year as healthy eating remains a staple to the town community and the state of Vermont. Supporting community initiatives through grocery shopping exists as the crux of the Co-op's mission statement. Interaction with local business owners enables shoppers to learn more about what they are eating as well as develop relationships with the creative, hard-working, minds behind the store's products. Furthermore, shoppers at the Co-op are able to personalize certain products such as items from the salad bar, smoothie counter and prepared food section. The store always has many options for any individual, regardless of dietary restrictions.

The Co-op transcends the label of your average store by bringing various foods and community members together. By acting as a bridge between consumers and products, the Co-op possesses the agency to improve our communal food system, guiding the food movement in Middlebury for years to come.

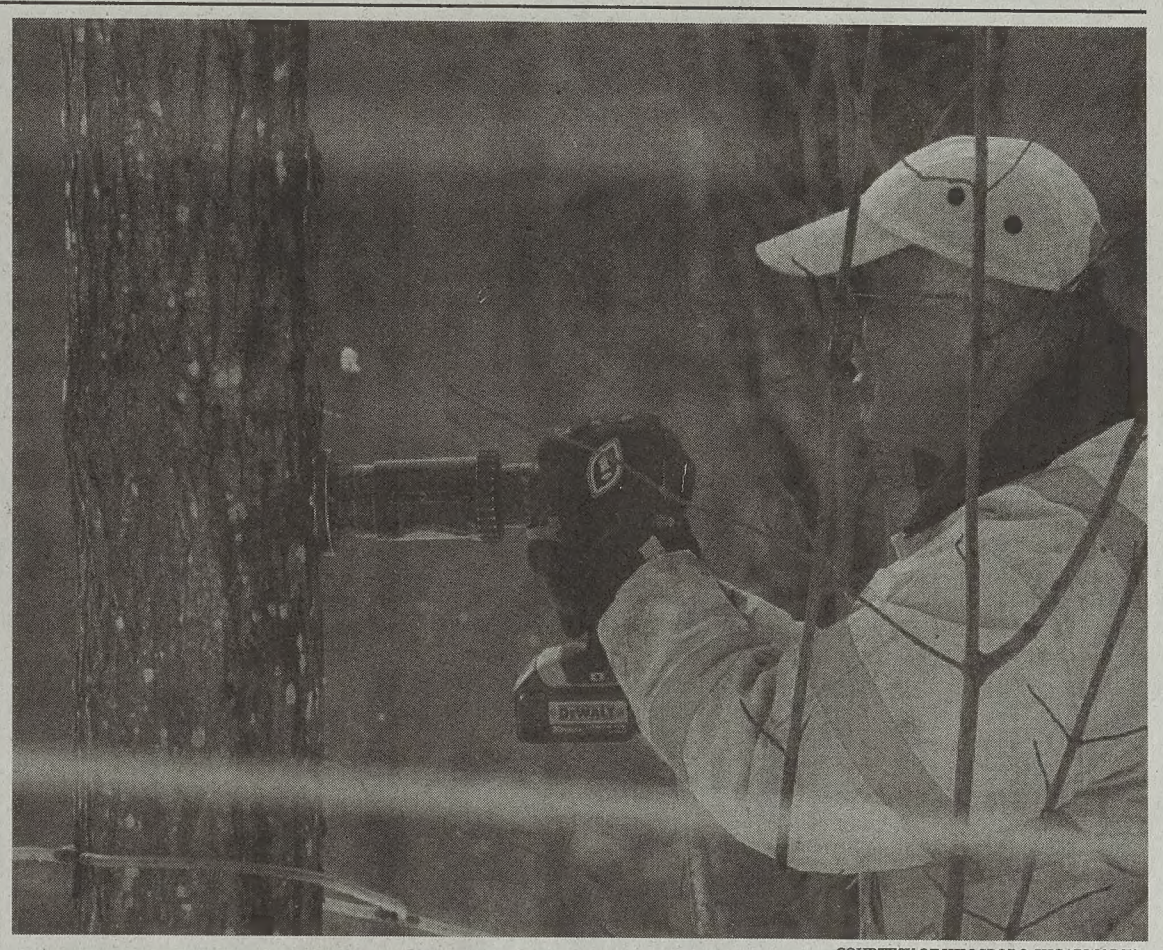
The Co-op's 8-month-long endeavor has paid off, with expanded departments and a 50 percent increase of retail floor space.

Adopt a Cat!!!



Elmer was brought to Homeward Bound after being found in a ditch on the side of the road by one of their volunteers. After such a rough start, Elmer is understandably a shy guy and timid around strangers. Although he tends to stick to himself, he does live peacefully in a community room with some of our other cats. Elmer is going to need a family who will provide him with the patience he needs to feel comfortable in a new environment and around new people. We think once he feels safe, he will make a great companion for most people! (3 years, shorthaired tiger, neutered male.)

For more information, call Homeward Bound, Addison County's humane society, at (802) 388-1100, or visit their website, www.homewardboundanimals.org.



COURTESY OF HILLSBORO SUGARWORKS

Drilling to put vacuum tubing in place for maple tapping.

Vermont Sugarmakers Reflect on New Challenges

By SADIE HOUSBERG
Local Editor

Steve Willsey of Shaker Maple Farm in Addison County tapped his first tree in 1988. For Willsey and many other Vermonters, maple syrup production, or sugarmaking, now represents a primary source of income. Donna Hutchinson (Mt. Pleasant Sugarworks) explained that it was not always like this. "The industry has certainly changed. It has become more of a mainstay, commercial industry and less of a local, family business," she said.

The maple syrup industry in the U.S. has been growing steadily over the past two decades, according to UVM Extension maple specialist Mark Isselhardt. This iconic industry has always required a certain degree of flexibility because the production season is dependent on many variable weather conditions. However, a UVM study on the adaptability of maple production published in 2016 reports that climate change may require sugarmakers to make substantial changes to their operations in order to remain competitive.

Though images of metal buckets hanging from trees, symbols of historical tapping technique, are often used for marketing purposes, the reality of modern production is very different. A variety of new technological advances, including networks of plastic tubing, reverse osmosis devices, and vacuum pressure pumps, have contributed to the growth and efficiency of sugarmaking. At Solar Sweet Maple Farm in South Lincoln, Vermont, Rhonda and Tom Gadhue maintain around 23,000 taps. When the correct balance of freezing nights and above-freezing days arrives, usually in the spring, maple sap will begin to flow and the Gadhues can begin to tap.

"Our saps come to our sugar house and are pumped into three to four different tanks. Once the tanks are full the sap gets processed through a reverse osmosis machine, which takes the water out and decreases the boiling time," Rhonda Gadhue said, describing the processing of maple sap. "Then it's run through a wood fire evaporator and once it reaches a certain temperature, the syrup is ready to be filtered and packaged." The Gadhues' sugarhouse is built from reclaimed Vermont barns and powered by solar panels, a testament to their commitment to "preserve the environment, make the best use of [their] land, and foster sustainability".

Historically, the typical tapping season began on Town Meeting Day, a Vermont holiday on the first Tuesday in March. But Dr. Timothy Perkins, director of the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center, said that technology is allowing the season to begin earlier and run longer. The Gadhues hope to begin this week.

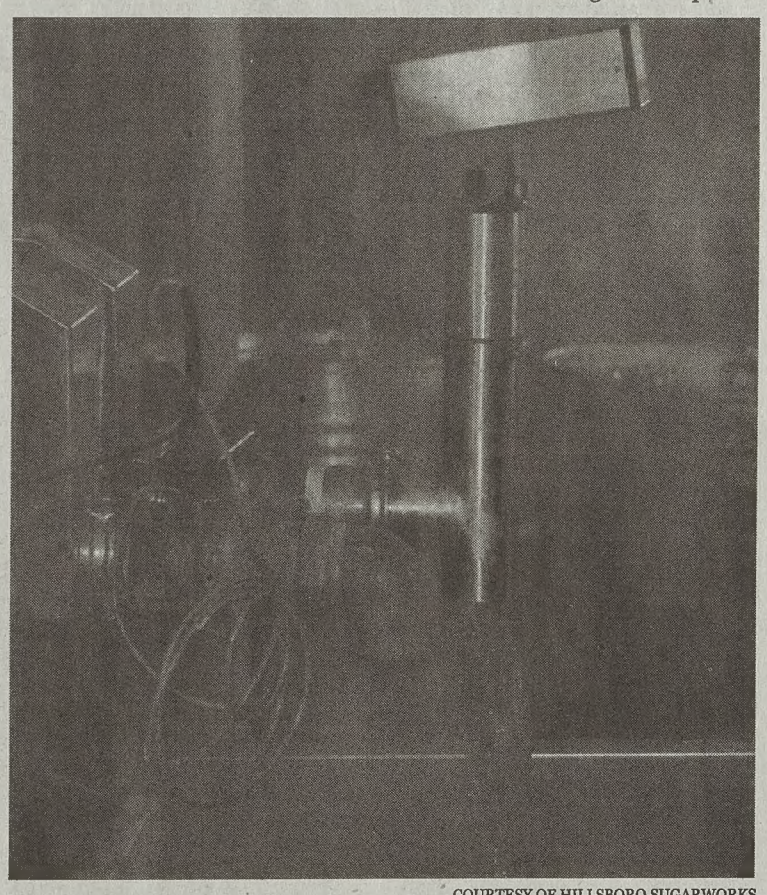
"Usually we start tapping the day after new years but this year it was so cold that to tap would have done damage to the trees," said Rhonda Gadhue.

Steve Willsey has already begun tapping. "I never would have started so early before," he said, "but because the tubes are so sterile, the trees won't start healing over before I'm finished tapping." Dr. Perkins explains that, at least for now, this improved sanitation and technology is allowing sugarmakers to offset any changes that might arise due to climate change.

"Long term I have no idea - down the road if it gets too warm that could be problematic ecause you need the freezes to tap as well." "

STEVE WILLSEY
SHAKER MAPLE FARM

In recent years, warmer winters have benefitted production, bringing record crops to Shaker Maple Farm and many other sugarworks in the Northern Kingdom. "I had two record crops the last two winters," said Willsey. "But long term I have no idea – down the road if it gets too warm that could be problematic because you need the freezes [to tap] as well."



COURTESY OF HILLSBORO SUGARWORKS

Filtration and pasturization process of maple syrup.

The expansion of the maple industry in recent years brings more concerns for Willsey and many other sugarmakers: if growth continues and supply starts to outpace demand, prices of syrup could drop in the future. Vermont is the biggest maple producer in the United States, accounting for 42 percent of the country's production, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. In a report published in 2015, the Center for Rural Studies at UVM put the value of maple production growth at 150 percent, from $19,755,594 in 1992 to $49,432,000, and ranked maple as the fourth most valued agricultural commodity in Vermont. Another Addison County sugarmaker, Dave Folino, who has been in the business since 1979, urges maple producers to focus more on marketing and selling syrup in The Maple News. "So far, maple has been one of the few reliable, steady, profitable sectors of agriculture in Vermont. I fear that could change," he cautioned. Folino clarifies that he is not arguing against growth, rather for more "balanced growth."

Extreme weather fluctuations that accompany climate change will pose several problems for maple syrup producers. Folino has noticed more and larger wind storms since 2000 and though warmer temperatures may be beneficial for the moment, the Addison County Independent reports, these trends may make production more difficult in the long run. "My biggest enemy right now is the wind. The storm that came through in November knocked trees down and messed up tubing," said Willsey. "I don't know if I'm just more in tune [to weather changes] but I get really nervous now whenever I hear strong winds."

Despite concerns about climate change and the future economics of the iconic maple industry, sugarmakers in Vermont remain hopeful. "Every year is different," Hutchinson said. "You adapt in the sugaring industry."

The technological improvements such as vacuum tubing are an example of the adaptability of researchers and producers to new challenges. "I love being my outside and making a product that everybody likes," said Willsey.

For many, sugaring represents both a source of livelihood, a community, and a passion. "The community that comes through and visits the farm when we're boiling is amazing," Rhonda Ghandue said. "Everybody can feel the excitement of getting what you've worked for year round – it's a great feeling."

J-Term Crazies:

Out & About in Middlebury and Surrounding

By Emma Stapleton
Photo Editor

Forgot to sign-up for J-Term workshops? Not looking to spend lots of money on ski passes and/or lessons? Tired of sitting around feeling bored with all of this newly acquired free time? Here's a list of fun activities you may not know about in the area or campus activities you may have forgotten about.

Snowshoeing and Fat Biking at Rikert - Don't want to ski? Try snowshoeing or fat biking. Both items can be rented from Rikert or snowshoes can be checked out for free from the Middlebury Mountain Club gear room.

Tuesday Game Night at the Lobby - Exactly as it sounds. Food and games at the Lobby restaurant on Tuesdays from 4:30 until closing. Cards against Humanity, Settlers of Catan, Cranium, and more.

Night Skiing - Tried skiing before but not night skiing? Cochran's ski area in Richmond, Vermont offers a $5 Friday Night Lights Ski from 3pm-8pm. Looking for a bigger mountain? Try $25 night skiing at Bolton Valley, Tuesday-Friday, 4pm-10pm.

Spin Class - Too lazy to walk to the gym from J-Term study jaunts in Bihall? Too cold out to actually go biking? Middlebury YouPower offers daily student-taught spin classes in the Freeman International Center. go/youpower to sign up.

Contra Dance - Contra Dance in Cornwall, VT the 2nd Saturday of every month. The next Contra dance is February 10th. Visit www.contradancelinks.com/ for a complete list of other Vermont contra dance events hosted throughout January.

Vermont Teddy Bear Factory - Take a tour and build your own custom teddy bear! Tours offered 7 days a week at the factory in Shelburne, VT.

Ben and Jerry's Factory - Always wanted to visit Vermont's famous B&J's but never felt you had the time to make the trek? Now's your time! Eat ice cream and pay your respects in the Flavor Graveyard to ghosts of ice creams past.

Burlington Pick-up Dodgeball - Vermont Dodgeball hosts adult pick-up dodgeball at 7pm on Monday nights at the Orchard School in South Burlington. Cost is $5 to play and players are invited to join the group for beer at Tavern II afterwards.

Lake Champlain Sunset - One of the benefits of living near a lake that stretches up the Vermont border? Just drive West and you are bound to hit a beautiful lakeshore! J-Term is the perfect time for an impromptu sunset drive. Grab some proctor hot chocolate, pump some tunes, and enjoy some views. If you're looking for a hike, students have the capability of renting micro spikes

J-Term Performances - Classes like the Cabaret J-Term course have upcoming performances at the end of the month! Support your friends and peers by attending one of the shows from Jan. 26, 27 and 29 at 7:30 pm and Jan. 28 at 2:00 pm at The Town Hall Theater.

Shelburne Museum and The Vermont Folklife Center - J-Term is a great time to check out local arts and culture exhibitions that the normal semesters don't allow time for. Both of these cultural centers provide great opportunities for discovering more about local Vermont history. The current exhibition at The Vermont Folklike Center is "Up Home: Hand-Colored Photographs" by Susanne and Neil Rappaport.

EMMA STAPLETON

Winter scenes in and around Middlebury, Vermont.

Severe Weather Impedes Winter Activities

By Ally Murphy
Local Editor

Over winter break and into New Year's, the country as a whole and New England in particular experienced severely cold temperatures. Vermont saw many days of below zero degree weather with temperatures in Burlington dipping to 28 below during the day and as low as 40 below at night. The cold weather even forced Jay Peak Resort to close down its upper mountain lifts; temperatures came in at 31 below zero without windchill for areas higher than 2,500 feet above sea level. Forecasters warned people to be wary of hypothermia and frostbite from the arctic blast in Vermont and large areas of the Midwest and Northeast.

"It's tough when any holiday period is impacted by the weather, because they are critical to our success."

PETER MACKEY
MANAGER
MIDDLEBURY SNOW BOWL

The severe temperatures negatively affected many local ski areas in Vermont. According to Candice White at Sugarbush Resort, "The cold temperatures certainly had a negative impact on lift ticket purchases over the Christmas holiday. We were down in revenue." Peter Mackey at the Snow Bowl offered a similar insight stating, "[the cold weather] impacted us negatively for sure; our busiest day was the day after Christmas, which was the only day during the holiday week above zero."

Ben Arquit '20, who skied in Vermont over break and explained how the cold temperatures had a big impact on skiing in Vermont: "Many people, especially families, chose to stay home on days where the wind chill resulted in temperatures of 40 below zero. One day was so cold (55 below with wind chill) that Killington, the biggest ski area in the east, had to close for a whole day for the first time in recent memory. The mountains were definitely less crowded than usual during the winter break."

Towards the end of break, the country experienced another round of drastic weather in the form of a 'bomb cyclone.' 'Bombing' occurs when a low pressure system's central pressure falls 24 millibars in 24 hours or less. The country saw the effects of the bomb cyclone on a large scale. The storm's path through some of the busiest air travel corridors in the country also prompted airlines to cancel more than 4,000 flights and delay 2,000 more. Boston's Long Wharf was impacted by a three-foot tidal surge that pushed floodwaters into buildings and down the steps of the Aquarium mass transit station.

According to White, "The recent bomb cyclone brought us Winter Storm Grayson, which delivered some terrific snow, driving skier visits, also brought cold temperatures, which typically negatively impact skier visits."

"Following break, the bomb cyclone was awesome for the ski areas. More than a foot of snow was welcome news to many of the resorts after a cold, icy break," Arquit said. "The Snow Bowl especially benefited and was fully open by the beginning of J-Term."

"The bomb cyclone affected us very positively but, unfortunately, only for a short time. We were in full operation for a few days with great conditions even where we don't make snow," said Mackey.

In the next phase of dramatic weather, Vermont saw unusually warm temperatures in early January that negatively affected skiing. "The warm temperatures were accompanied by almost two inches of rain, which hits our natural snow trails fairly hard. Our man made snow trails, which make up 70 percent of the mountain, can withstand the rain much better. On Jan. 13, we closed many of our natural trails for the day. The changeover from rain to cold temperatures also caused some icing on our lifts, which caused delayed openings on some lifts. And the winds were strong, which caused wind-hold on some upper-mountain lifts," said White.

Mackey explained how, "We're only operating the Sheehan Chair presently while we make snow on the Worth Mt. Chair to make those snowmaking trails safe. Two to three feet of natural snow that we accumulated over the course of a month basically disappeared within 36 hours!"

Arquit further described the impact on the snow bowl stating, "Unfortunately, the recent warm weather dealt a blow to the Bowl. Even as temps dropped this weekend, only one lift at the Bowl was open. Luckily, they are blowing lots of snow and should be back fully open within a few days."

"We're experiencing extreme weather and extreme swings in the weather," Mackey described, "going from 10 degrees and full operation on Wednesday (Jan. 10) to 53 degrees with one lift open two days later and back to 13 degrees the next – that's a 73 temperature swing over the course of 3 days!"

"This business is fickle - we've certainly had better years. It's tough when any holiday period is impacted by the weather, because they are critical to our success," White said.

EMMA STAPLETON

The view from Heaven's Gate chairlift on Lincoln's Peak.

SPORTS

Skiing Set to Ski Down the Snow Bowl

Nordic Ready to Rumble through Rikert

MEN'S BASKETBALL MOVES INTO A TIE FOR SECOND IN THE NESCAC

AIDAN ACOSTA

Following a slightly tumultuous winter break when the Panthers lost its first three games of the season, the men's basketball team beat Bates and Tufts this weekend to move to 3–1 in the Nescac, tied for second with Williams and Tufts.

B8

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MOVES TO 2-2 IN NESCAC

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

After defeating Wesleyan and Conn. College in their first two conference games over break, the Panthers fell to Bates and Tufts last Friday and Saturday.

B8

SQUASH TEAMS LOOK TO BUILD ON MAINE SUCCESS

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

The men's side looks to stay in the running for a top 16 year end finish, while the women's team tries to continue controlling their competition.

B3 Women's Squash
B7 Men's Squash

PLAYER AND TEAM OF THE WEEK

B2

NOTES FROM THE NESCAC

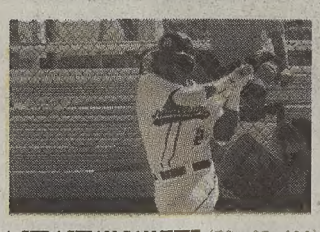
B2

EDITORS' PICKS

B3

3. ETHAN BRADY (21–16, .568)

4. ROB ERICKSON (53–57, .482)



5. SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (52–68 .433)

MICHAEL O'HARA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

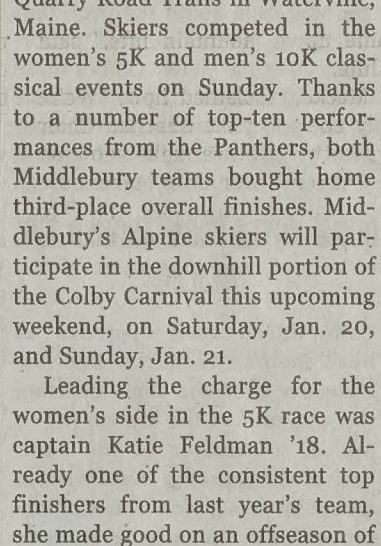
A Middlebury skier races down the mountain at the 2017 Middlebury Carnival, which the Panthers placed third out of 15 teams in. The alpine and nordic teams have several races before they take to the Snow Bowl for the 2018 Carnival on Feb. 23 and 24.

NORDIC SKIING NETS NICE START

By ROB ERICKSON

The Middlebury Nordic ski team opened their 2018 campaign at the Colby Carnival this past weekend, with both the men's and women's squads managing an impressive showing despite the unfavorable weather that caused Saturday's races to be cancelled at Quarry Road Trails in Waterville, Maine. Skiers competed in the women's 5K and men's 10K classical events on Sunday. Thanks to a number of top-ten performances from the Panthers, both Middlebury teams bought home third-place overall finishes. Middlebury's Alpine skiers will participate in the downhill portion of the Colby Carnival this upcoming weekend, on Saturday, Jan. 20, and Sunday, Jan. 21.

Leading the charge for the women's side in the 5K race was captain Katie Feldman '18. Already one of the consistent top finishers from last year's team, she made good on an offseason of hard work with a career-best sixth-place finish (16:29). Finishing just on her heels was fellow captain Cate Brams '18 who crossed the finish line 15th overall, just 11 seconds behind her teammate (16:40). Orli Schwartz '20 rounded out the scoring for the Panther women, grabbing the 19th spot overall with a time of 16:46. Not far behind her was first-year Avery Ellis '21 with a time of 16:52, just missing the scoring cutoff but still demonstrating the fire and potential that the Panthers look for from their younger athletes.



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS

Katie Feldman '18

On the whole, Feldman gave a positive appraisal of the team's performance on Sunday. "I'd say this weekend was a good start to our season," she offered. "It was a hectic time between the rain and then the extreme cold [on Sunday]... As a group, I think the team did a really good job adapting to the many changes and being ready to race. Putting three racers in the top ten between men and women and both genders scoring third on the day is a big step in the right direction, and we're hungry for more."

In the men's 10K race, both old and new found their way to the top of the leaderboard for the Panthers. Lewis Nottonson '19 tied a career-best finish by crossing the line in 28:45, good for sixth place overall. Just two seconds behind Nottonson, Peter Wolter sped to a seventh-place finish (28:47) in his first-ever collegiate race — not an altogether inauspicious beginning for the first-year. The third and final scorer for the Panther men was captain Adam Luban '18, who was a mainstay on the leaderboards last season. This past Sunday, he crossed the line in 29:12, putting him in 16th for the race.

At the end of the day, the Panther men actually tied with the Colby Mules for third place, having cobbled together 196 cumulative points. However, the Panther women combined for 178 points, enough to secure a 20-point lead over their hosts, who finished in fourth place. Once the two sides were combined, Middlebury's 374 points gave them sole possession of third place over the Mules. The Panthers finished behind Dartmouth College (486) and the University of Vermont (490) respectively.

As Feldman later noted, this first weekend was hardly just a warmup for the team; with only a limited number of races in the season, the Panthers will be looking to take advantage of every scoring opportunity they have. "Our season is really in full swing," she said. "These early races are just as important as the later carnivals as there are opportunities for NCAA qualifying points and team carnival points in all six of the carnival weekends."

Next weekend, the Nordic teams will head up Route 7 to participate in the St. Michael's Carnival at Sleepy Hollow Ski Center in Hinesburg, Vermont. As mentioned before, the alpine teams will be the ones heading over to Maine, competing in the downhill portion of the Colby Carnival on Sugarloaf Mountain.

SKIERS LOOK TO TAKE ON SLOPES

By JAKE TURTEL

The opportunity to ski and snowboard factors into the college decision for a good number of Middlebury students. With convenient shuttles to the Snow Bowl offered almost hourly and Sugarbush Mountain less than an hour away, opportunities to get on the snow are everywhere. The mountains are a place of escape for many, a destination that makes cutting class entirely excusable when it snows enough during J-term. But whether they ski at Mad River Glen or board down Mead Chapel Hill, the majority of campus probably approaches snow sports somewhat differently than members of the Division I Middlebury Alpine and Nordic ski teams.

Given the studied precision with which Panther downhill skiers attack the slopes, you can be sure that they take careful note of mountain conditions when they plan their runs. "Every day, every run is different from the last," says Devon Cardamone '18. Unlike track — another timed sport — "every course is different on any given day, and it's not a sport where you have a 'best time' or a personal best." As a general rule, fresh powder is enough to make the casual skier's mouth water; the term "casual skier," however, hardly applies to a DI athlete who loves nothing more than to get down the slope as fast as possible. With that in mind, could you really blame Cardamone for preferring his hills "steep and icy"?

Sure, many of us can get down the mountain just fine — but it probably looks much different than how Caroline Bartlett '19 (also captain of the skiers' IM hockey team, ironically named "Snowboard Club") does it. Last year she took home three Carnival wins (all in Giant Slalom), five top-five finishes, an NCAA qualifying bid, and second-team All-East honors for the Alpine team. Jackie Atkins '20 was the other Panther Alpine NCAA qualifier, posting a very strong season in her rookie year: she placed in the top-15 seven different times.

But those two aren't the only ones on the Middlebury team with postseason races in their sights. Vermont native Lexi Calcagni '19 is looking to build on a solid season after posting a couple of top-10 finishes, including an eighth place performance in giant slalom at the 2017 Middlebury Carnival. Fellow Vermonter Katie Utter '20 will also challenge for a Carnival spot after posting six top-20 finishes in her first year. As a whole, the women's Alpine team finished with third-place finishes in the final three carnivals of the 2017 season and 14th overall at NCAAs.

On the men's side, Riley Plant '18 and Cardamone will lead the way. Despite his warm-weather roots (average January temperature in his hometown of Auburn, CA: 46 degrees Fahrenheit), Plant has seven top-10 finishes over the course of his three-year career. Cardamone, a Coloradan, earned a second-place result in the Giant Slalom at the Vermont Carnival in addition to placing 12th twice over the course of the season. Veteran Angie Duke '19 figures to challenge for a carnival spot after placing 10th and 12th in a pair of races last year.

Team chemistry could be the key to improving on these results. This year's team "is the most cohesive unit I have seen since I've been here," says Plant. "Our young skiers are huge sources of energy and enthusiasm, and our upperclassmen have done a tremendous job in fostering a balanced team dynamic," says Plant.

The Panthers aim to build on those team dynamics with a work ethic that will play a large role in their 2018 success. The Alpine team spent an increased amount of time in the weight room this offseason, alternating between dumbbells, barbells, and balancing on Bosu balls. While the gym isn't wholly necessary for the average skier, "it's really important to develop explosive power, quickness, and endurance in order to take advantage of training opportunities and to prevent injuries," according to Bartlett. But obviously, getting on the snow is just as important: to that end, the recent cold "provided some amazing early season conditions," she said.

This "on-snow training" began in earnest over Thanksgiving Break. While many of us were gorging ourselves on turkey and pie (the present author being no exception), the team had traveled out west to Loveland, Colorado and was getting their first runs in.

Downhill skier Jack Schibli '18 gave us an inside look into the rigorous training regimen required of a Division I athlete. It all starts with planning spring academic schedules, he said; in order to maximize training time on the mountain, the team chooses classes that start 11:15 a.m. at the earliest. While many of us are still sleeping, the Alpine team hits the dining hall when it opens at 7 a.m. before leaving for the Snow Bowl at 7:15. After around six to eight runs, they return to campus at 11 a.m.

After classes end, the team retires to the locker room to meticulously prepare their skis for the next day of training. "This includes sharpening the edges, waxing the base, letting the wax sit for at least 30 minutes and then scraping and brushing it out. Usually while we wait for the wax to cool, we'll do a light workout... That whole process usually takes us into dinner around 6pm," said Schibli. Next is homework (that's right, even Division 1 athletes grind in the library) and some much-needed rest before starting it all again the next day.

It is perhaps due to this grueling daily schedule that Plant has seen "vast improvement from our rising upperclassmen. Our first-years have [also] shown great speed in training every day.

Continued on Page B6

Panther Team of the Week:
Women's Hockey

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Betsy Knox '20 taking a shot. She racked up 23 points and nine boards against Rensselaer, followed by a 13 point effort that included a key OT three against Colby-Sawyer.

The women's hockey team hasn't lost since Dec. 2, and the Panthers have gone 5–0–1 since then. This past weekend, the Panthers shut out UMass-Boston and No. 10 Endicott 5–0. After a rocky start to the season, Middlebury has steadied the ship and seem primed to make another run at the Nescac Championship with an 8–3–1 record overall and 4–1–1 in the Nescac.

Panther Player of the Week:
Jack Daly '18

AIDAN ACOSTA

On Monday, Jan. 15, Jack Daly '18 was named to the Top 100 Watchlist for the 2017-18 Bevo Francis Award, given to the best player from Division II, Division III, the NAIA, USCAA, and NCCAA men's basketball. Daly was also named Nescac Player of the Week on Monday, for the second time this season. Daly leads the nation in assists per game, and is also Middlebury's leading scorer and rebounder. On Friday, Jan. 12, Daly scored a career-high 26 points in Middlebury's 82–76 win over Bates.

TRACK & FIELD WINS OWN WINTER CLASSIC

By JORDAN HOWELL

As the season begins, the men's and women's track and field teams have already started off strong. After participating in the unscored Dartmouth Relays, both teams captured first place finishes in last Saturday's Middlebury Winter Classic.

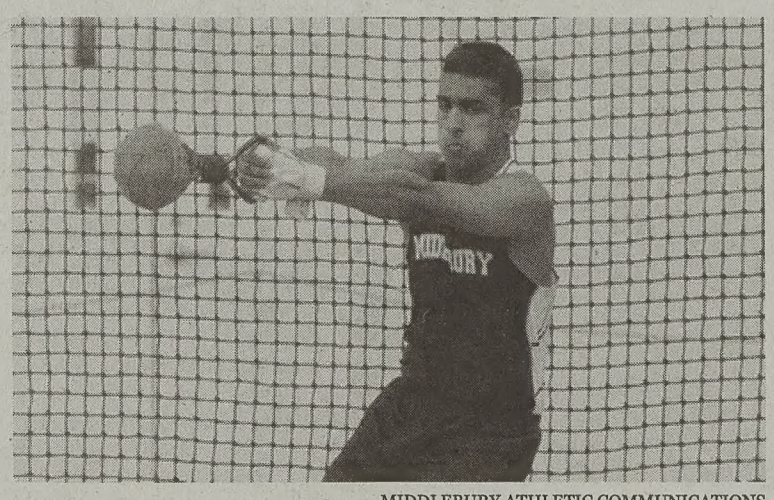
A total of 148 points netted the men's team first place. RPI came in second with 136 points and Franklin Pierce came in third with 101 points.

In the course of earning a first-place finish, the men's side had quite a few first place finishers. Matthew Durst '21 was first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.38. Jimmy Martinez '19 was first in the 500-meter dash with a time of 1:04.87. A time of 2:38.10 got Sawyer Tadano '21 first in the 1000-meter run. A time of 8.64 helped Mike Pallozzi '18 to earn first in the 60-meter hurdles. John Natalone '19 had a height of 4.35 m to get first in the pole vault event. Also, Minhaj Rahman '19 threw a distance of 15.05 m in order to get first in 35-lb weight throw. Middlebury's A team also got first in the 4x400 meter relay. The team was comprised of Martinez, Durst, Arden Coleman '20 and Cam Mackintosh '20.

The women's team scored a hefty 157.50 points to gain first place. RPI came in second with 121.50 points and Franklin Pierce came in third with 106 points.

The women's side had several events where several of their scorers came in the top eight. In the 200-meter dash, Kate Holly '21 came in second, Gretchen McGrath '21 came in fourth and Lizzie Walkes '20 came in sixth. Respectively, their times were 27.33, 27.65 and 27.84. In the 400-meter dash, Kate McCluskey '18 captured first and Kai Milici '21 captured third. McCluskey had a time of 57.97 and Milici had a time of 1:02.70. Anna Willig '20 with a time of 1:20.80 and Lucy Lang '19 with a time of 1:21.08 came in first and second respectively in the 500-meter dash. First, second, and third in 60 meter hurdles were taken by Chima Dimgba '21, Kisha Kalra '18 and Catherine Walker '20. In order, they had times of 9.45, 9.62 and 9.94. In the pole vault event, Kreager Taber '19 got first with a height of 3.20 m and Molly Colwell '20 got second with a height of 3.05 m. Victoria Toth '21 was in a three way tie for third with a height of 2.90 m and Annalise Arant '21 was in a two way tie for sixth with a height of 2.90 m.

Even with this great start, the team will look to improve as the season progresses. For now, they look forward to continuing their momentum at the Middlebury Winterfell this Saturday, Jan. 20, at Virtue Field House where the events will start at 11:30 a.m.



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Minhaj Rahman '19 won the 35-pound weight throw at the Middlebury Winter Classic on Saturday, Jan. 13, with a distance of 15.05-meters.

SWIM & DIVE REACH HALFWAY MARK

By THE SPORTS EDITORS

The men's and women's swim and dive teams hit the road to face Colby in Waterville and Bates in Lewistown last weekend in Maine. The women's squad came away with a victory at Colby, earning 202 points to Colby's 96, while the men's team lost to Colby 183–111 before both teams lost to Bates. In Lewistown, the women's team lost in a close call 152.5–141.5, while the men's team struggled and fell 170–118.

With their win at the Colby meet, the women's team earned their second victory of the season. The formidable pair of Panther sophomores, Maya Gomez '20 and Frances VanderMeer '20, had their fingerprints all over Middlebury's success in the Colby meet.

VanderMeer and Gomez were on the 200-yard medley relay team with Erin Kelly '21 and Steph Andrews '18 that touched the wall almost six full seconds before the second-place group that consisted of Sarah Bartholomae '18, Lisa MacCowatt '19, Kelly Delane '18 and Angela Riggins '19 . Middlebury's B team (Bartholomae, MacCowatt, Delane and Riggins), however, finished 1.3 seconds ahead of Colby's A team. Middlebury's winning A squad registered a time of 1:50.45, the B squad a time of 156.06 and Colby's A team finished with a time of 1:57.39.

VanderMeer won the 200-yard freestyle heat by finishing a full two seconds ahead of the second place finisher from Colby, Maria Armillei, and that was even in light of VanderMeer easing up in the last half lap.

The 50-yard backstroke was the closest heat of the day, but the Panthers came out on top in that event as well. Bartholomae touched the wall at 29.75, just under a tenth of a second before Colby's Emily Ambeliotis. Meanwhile, in the 50 yard breaststroke Gomez took another top finish by edging out two teammates, Erin Kelly (32.04) and MacCowatt (32.57), as she registered a time of 31.15.

In both the men's and women's meets, Middlebury diving continued its run of great success. On the women's side, Kacey Hertan '20 won the 1-meter event with 230.85 points and Elissa DeNunzio '18 captured the 3-meter event title with 241.35 points. On the men's side, Mike Chirico '20 won both diving events, racking up 271.87 points in the 1-meter event and 267.45 in the 3-meter event.

While the men's team did not win the Colby meet and Chrico led the way from above the pool, they did have several notable performances in the water. One of those was Zack Einhorn '21's performance in the 200-yard freestyle, which he won by just north of four-tenths of a second over Colby senior Hugh Jacobsen by touching the wall at 1:49.28.

The other highlight was the first-place finish of the 200-yard freestyle relay team. Cory Jalbert '21, Brendan Leech '19, Connor McCormick '18 and Keegan Pando '21 allowed the day to end with a bang as they finished with a time of 1:29.84, about half a second before Colby's A team.

After the Colby meet, the teams got on the bus and travelled southwest to Bates, where they both fell to the Bobcats. The women's team made it close, while the men's team struggled, although they improved their team total from the Colby meet.

VanderMeer and Gomez once again were highlights for the Panthers in the pool, and Elissa DeNunzio impressed on the boards.

VanderMeer claimed the title for the 100 yard freestyle in 53.59, 50 yard freestyle in 24.47 and the 100 yard butterfly in 59.02. VanderMeer has consistently overcome the competition in her events throughout the season thus far.

Gomez also carried over some of the previous day's momentum, as she touched the wall first in both the 200 yard (2:29.63) and 100 yard (1:06.82) breaststroke events.

DeNunzio won both of her diving events to close the gap between the Panthers and Bobcats. DeNunzio scored 244.05 points in the 1-meter event, while also pulling out 260.03 points in the 3-meter competition. MaryCate Carroll '21 finished second in the 1-meter diving event with a score of 216.9 and the previous day's winner in the 1-meter, Hertan, finished third with 210.63 points.

Chirico continued his dominance as he again placed first in both the 1m and 3m diving events. In Lewiston, he racked up 286.87 points in the 1m and 293.55 in the 3m.

In the pool, the Panthers had less luck. McCormick and Jack Dowling '19 did pull out victories in their events though. McCormick finished first in the 400 IM by touching the wall at 4:18.01, a little over two seconds before the second place finisher from Bates, Alexander Ignatov.

McCormick also posed a second place finish in the 200 breaststroke (2:12.95) and 200 free (1:46.67).

After winning the same event in the Colby meet, Einhorn finished second in the 200-yard butterfly against Bates with a time of 2:01.01.

Other good performances came from the efforts of Santoro, who finished second in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:59.66, and Will Pannos '20, who finished the 100-yard butterfly 54.09 which was good for second place.

Leech, Robert Cheng '20, Jalbert and Alex Smith '18 also placed second in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:39.42.

This Saturday, the Panthers face Union at the Natatorium 2 p.m.

QUICK NOTES FROM AROUND THE NESCAC

Colby hired Jack Cosgrove as head football coach on Dec. 29. Cosgrove held the same position for 23 years at the University of Maine, a member of the Football Championship Subdivision, where he won 3 conference championships in the Colonial Athletic Association.

Middlebury's very own Jack Daly '18 was named the Nescac men's basketball player of the week for his play against Bates and Tufts last weekend.

Hamilton named Mark Brisotti their new men's and women's tennis coach, a position he held at Drew University since 2014.

Hamilton stayed undefeated in men's basketball, moving to 15–0 with wins over Wesleyan and Conn. College last weekend.

Amherst's Bailey Plaman was named Nescac women's hockey player of the week by helping the Mammoths sweep Bowdoin even though the Polar Bears outshot them in both games of the weekend doubleheader.

The Amherst and Bowdoin women's basketball teams are the only other undefeated winter sports Nescac teams.

Peter Farwell was inducted into the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Hall of Fame. Farwell is current head coach of the Williams cross country teams and the assistant coach of the track & field teams.

The Nescac has three teams ranked in the top-10 nationally in women's hockey.

GREAT EIGHT

RANKING TEAM — The Robert Report

1 Women's Hockey
Scary weekend from this team, blanking UMass Boston and #10 Endicott 5–0 in back-to-back road contests. Not a good time to face these women.

2 Men's Basketball
After some tough losses over the break, these guys are back. Good teams close out close games, and this one is no exception.

3 Middlebury Squash
Both men's and women's teams went 2–0 on the weekend, both are sitting in the top-20... Life is good.

4 Track and Field
Were both teams expected to win as the hosts of the Middlebury Winter Classic this past weekend? Probably. Hard to blame them for taking care of business, though.

5 Nordic Ski
Huge start to the season for both men's and women's teams, who both finished third overall at Colby and had a combined three racers in the top-10.

6 Women's Swim & Dive
Competitive day against Bates on Friday and a big win against Colby on Saturday.

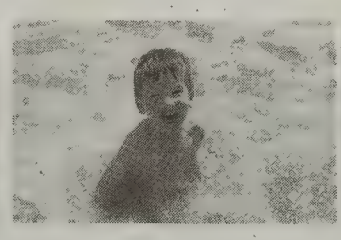
7 Women's Basketball
The team had a heat check with a pair of losses this weekend after their blistering start, but they'll bounce back.

8 Bobby Shmurda
Did you forget about the campaign to free the Brooklyn-area rapper from his 7-year prison sentence that will keep him behind bars until 2021? We bet you haven't even listened to him in years. Shame on you for forgetting Bobby. Shame indeed.

EDITORS' PICKS

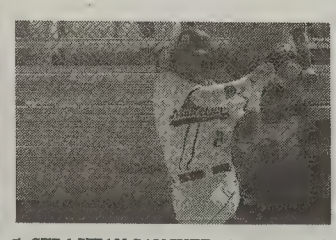
1. WILL CASE (131–88, .598)

2. ANDREW RIGAS (115–82, .584)



3. ETHAN BRADY (21–16, .568)

4. ROB ERICKSON (53–57, .482)



5. SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (52–68 .433)

Men's Squash: Do the Panthers pull an upset and win at least one of their two matches this weekend?	YES They are playing well right now and they have a special group with a bright future.	NO They're ranked lower than both teams.	YES Although maybe no.	YES What do I look like, the Grinch?	Forfeit
Women's Hockey: Friday, Jan. 19 Bowdoin @ Panthers (-2.5)	MIDDLEBURY Even with the spread, Bowdoin has struggled and the Panthers are hitting their stride.	MIDDLEBURY They're rolling.	MIDDLEBURY Wock my socks off.	MIDDLEBURY Coming off two 5–0 shutouts this weekend? Yes, please.	Forfeit

NFL CONFERENCE TITLE GAMES

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP Jacksonville @ New England (-9)	NEW ENGLAND I really want the Jags to come out on top. I don't think that'll happen and this one won't be close.	JACKSONVILLE They beat the Bills, so they must be pretty darn good.	NEW ENGLAND Most unfortunately.	JACKSONVILLE Best regular-season pass defense, and Fournette is a good bet to eat up some clock. Although if the team that snuck by the Bills shows up...	Forfeit
NFL CHAMPIONSHIP Minnesota (-3) @ Philadelphia	PHILADELPHIA I'm rooting for the Vikings, but my gut tells me to go with the Eagles...if the Eagles offensive minds are as good as they say, the Eagles will win.	PHILADELPHIA Nick Foles is about to get exposed as a quarterback going to the Super Bowl.	MINNESOTA About 30 to 45 minutes ago...	MINNESOTA Nick Foles is about to get exposed.	Forfeit
Over/Under: Points in whole game—Jags vs. Patriots 46.5	UNDER Hard to see Jacksonville cracking 14 points in this one.	OVER Hope on the Bortles train everyone because it's chugging its way to Minnesota.	OVER This will be over 46.5 points in the whole game.	OVER Jacksonville just put up 45 against the Steelers, and the Patriots were 29th in points allowed for the regular season... @WillCase	Forfeit
Over/Under: Points in whole game—Vikings vs. Eagles 38	OVER Watch out. For those of you playing at home, the o/u will probably go up from the 38 when the books opened.	OVER 38 points isn't many.	UNDER Don't trip.	UNDER Foles is getting exposed, remember?	Forfeit
Over/Under: Points in first half—Jags vs. Patriots 23	UNDER Apparently, the under happens more often than not in the first half.	OVER The Bortles train don't stop for no one.	OVER Will, don't even talk to me if you haven't taken Probability.	OVER Heck, we might even break 46.5 in the first half. Kidding. But not really.	Forfeit
Over/Under: Points in first half—Vikings vs. Eagles 18.5	OVER But there are exceptions to the rule.	UNDER It's going to take Nicky awhile to get going.	OVER These are so boring.	OVER Just because I think the Vikings will be running out the clock in the second half.	Forfeit
Over/Under: Rushing TDs for Leonard Fournette 1.5	UNDER It pains me to say this...but he probably won't get in the endzone once, let alone twice.	UNDER Fournette will have a good game, but this is Blake Bortles' time to shine.	UNDER Rushing TDs? In this economy?	OVER One rushing, one receiving.	Forfeit

Women's Squash Routs Maine Schools in Round-Tripper

By EMILY BIAN

The women's squash team has been on top of its game since the turn of the calendar year to 2018. With a busy J-term, their rigorous practice schedule seems to be paying off. With a recent weekend sweep, the Panthers now hold a 1–0 conference record and 6–2 mark overall. They were 15th in the College Squash Association rankings heading into winter break and, with their recent results, they should maintain that spot.

Middlebury started the new year off with a tough loss to 14th-ranked Williams. Anne Glassie '20 got the team's only point as she won a five-set match over Williams' Ananya Mahlingam-Dhingra in the fourth slot, with the score of 11–8, 11–9, 9–11, 4–11, 14–12. With her team down 8–0, Glassie's win allowed the Panthers to walk out of Williams' Simon Squash Center on a positive note.

After a 7–2 victory over No. 16 Amherst, the Panthers hit the road last weekend and stayed the weekend in Maine. That evening, the Panthers came out on top in one of their tightest matches of the season against Bates in a teeth-clenching 5–4 victory. Bates grabbed an early lead with a win at No. 3, but Lily Bogle '18 quickly tied the match with a 9–11, 11–8, 11–4, 11–2 victory over Katie Bull at the bottom of the ladder.

After Bates took another match to go up 2–1, Mira Chugh '20 brought the match to 2–2 with an easy straight-sets victory in the eighth slot (11–1, 11–3, 11–2).

Once again, the Bobcats regained a narrow edge after Kristyna Alexova defeated Bostwick in straight-sets in the second slot, but Emily Beinkampen '21 tied it up for the Panthers with a straight-sets victory of her own in the seventh slot (11–7, 11–5, 11–5). Natalie Madden '21 earned a hard-fought, four-set victory to give the Panthers the momentary lead. After dropping the second set 9–11, which tied things up at one set apiece, Madden pulled off back-to-back 12–10 victories over Katie Manternach in what was the match and performance of the day. After Bates evened things up, it set up a rubber match situation with Glassie still left to complete her match in the fourth slot. She did so in intense straight-set fashion, beating Maeve O'Brien 11–7, 13–11, 11–8.

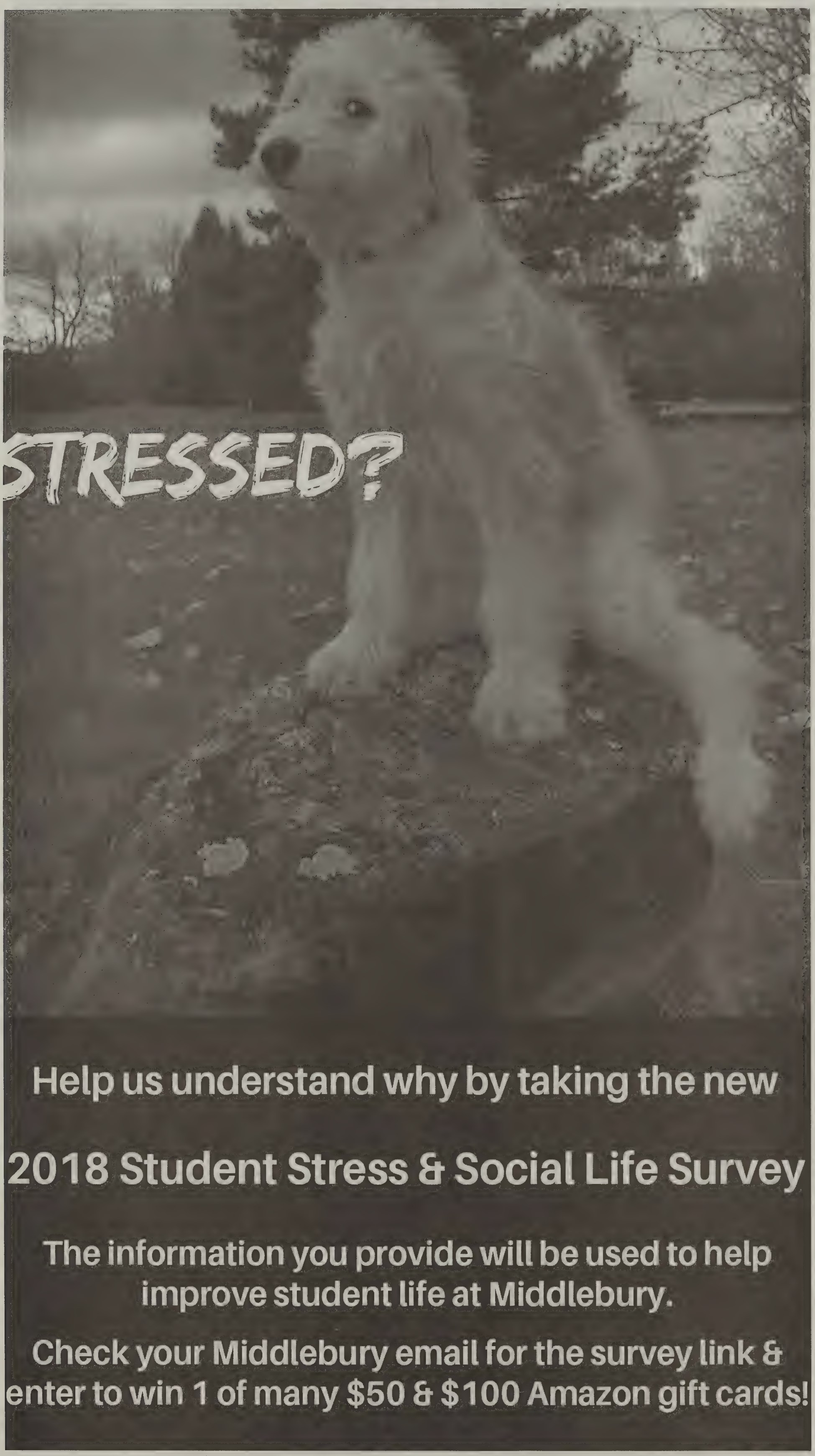
MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Alexai Comai '19 returns from abroad to slot into No. 3 in the Panthers' lineup, giving them formidable depth at the top of the ladder.

The No. 15 Panthers took on No. 22 Colby the next day. In a complete sweep, the Panthers were led by Lowitt at the bottom of the ladder, who eased past her opponent with scores of 11–4, 11–1, 11–7, the recently-returned-from-abroad No. 3 Alexa Comai '19 who won 11–6, 11–8, 11–7 and Beinkampen in the sixth slot who won by scores of 11–7, 11–4, 11–4. The second wave of wins came from the top-half of the ladder as Virginia Schaus '21 won in the fifth slot 11–7, 13–11, 11–5, No. 2 Bostwick (14–12, 11–7, 11–4) and No. 4 Madden (11-6, 11–7, 11–4). Beatrijs Kuijpers '19, who also recently returned from a semester abroad, won in the first slot 11–4, 11–8, 11–5, No. 7 Chugh won 11–4, 11–9, 11–5 and, finally, closing out the 9–0 sweep was Bogle who earned a victory in the eighth slot by scores of 11–6, 11–9, 11–7.

The Panthers rounded out the Maine trip with another complete sweep against Bowdoin on the same day. Middlebury quickly took a 3–0 advantage with another dominant performance at the bottom of the ladder from Lowitt (11–0, 11–0, 11–2), an almost equally dominant victory from Beinkampen in the sixth spot (11–2, 11–5, 11–2) and a four-set win by Comai in the third slot (7–11, 11–4, 11–5, 11–2). Chugh surrendered just eight points in the seventh spot (11–4, 11–0, 11–4). Bostwick tallied the eighth point with a four-game win at No. 2 (11–7, 8–11, 11–6, 11–4), and the No. 1, Kuijpers, concluded the scoring at No. 1 (11–2, 11–8, 11–6).

Yesterday afternoon the Panthers took on Trinity, who is coming off suffering its first loss of the season to Princeton. This weekend the Panthers will be playing Franklin & Marshall and Cornell at the squash center.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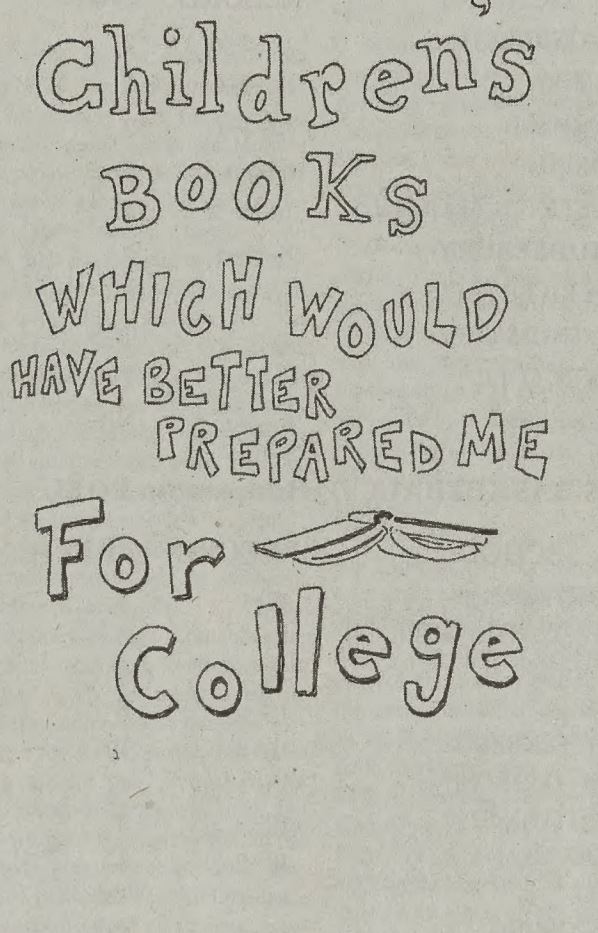
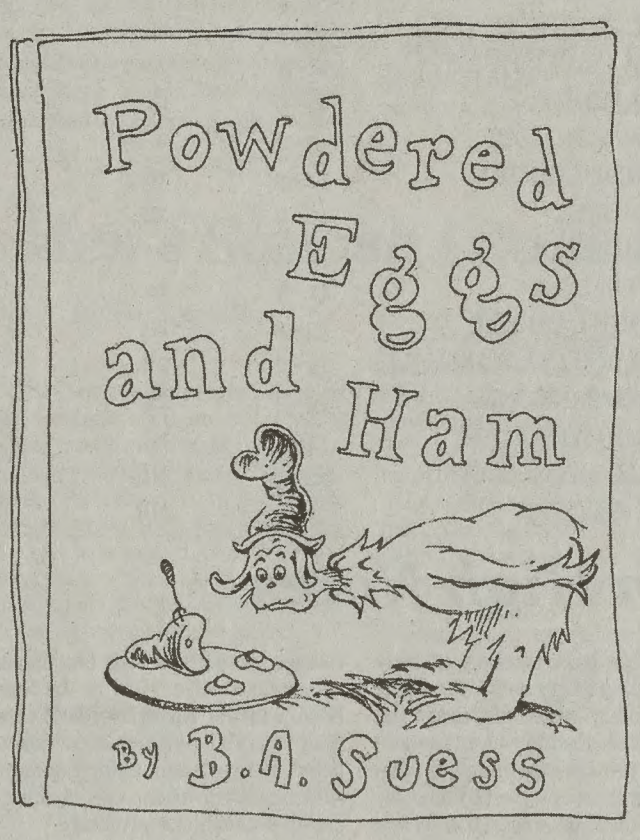
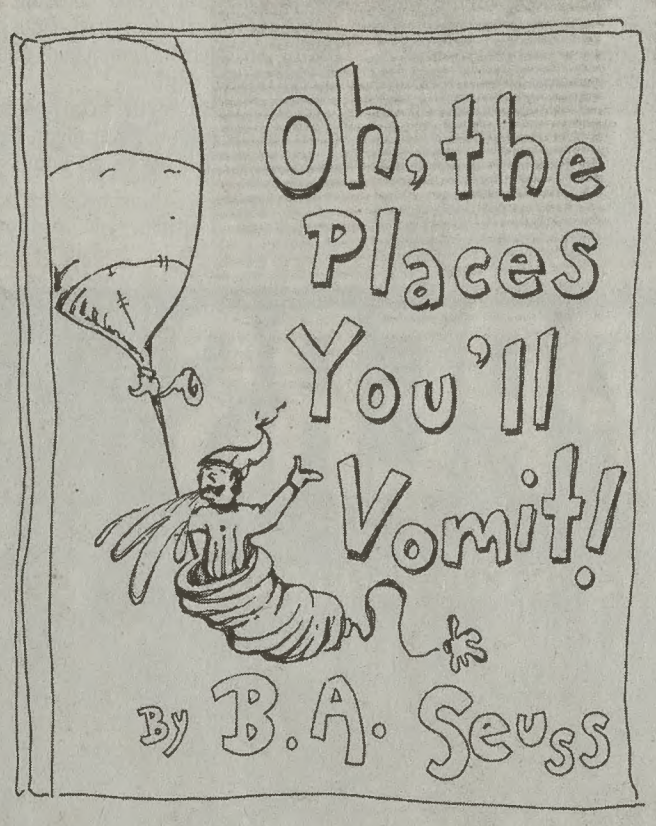
Help us understand why by taking the new
2018 Student Stress & Social Life Survey
The information you provide will be used to help improve student life at Middlebury.
Check your Middlebury email for the survey link & enter to win 1 of many $50 & $100 Amazon gift cards!



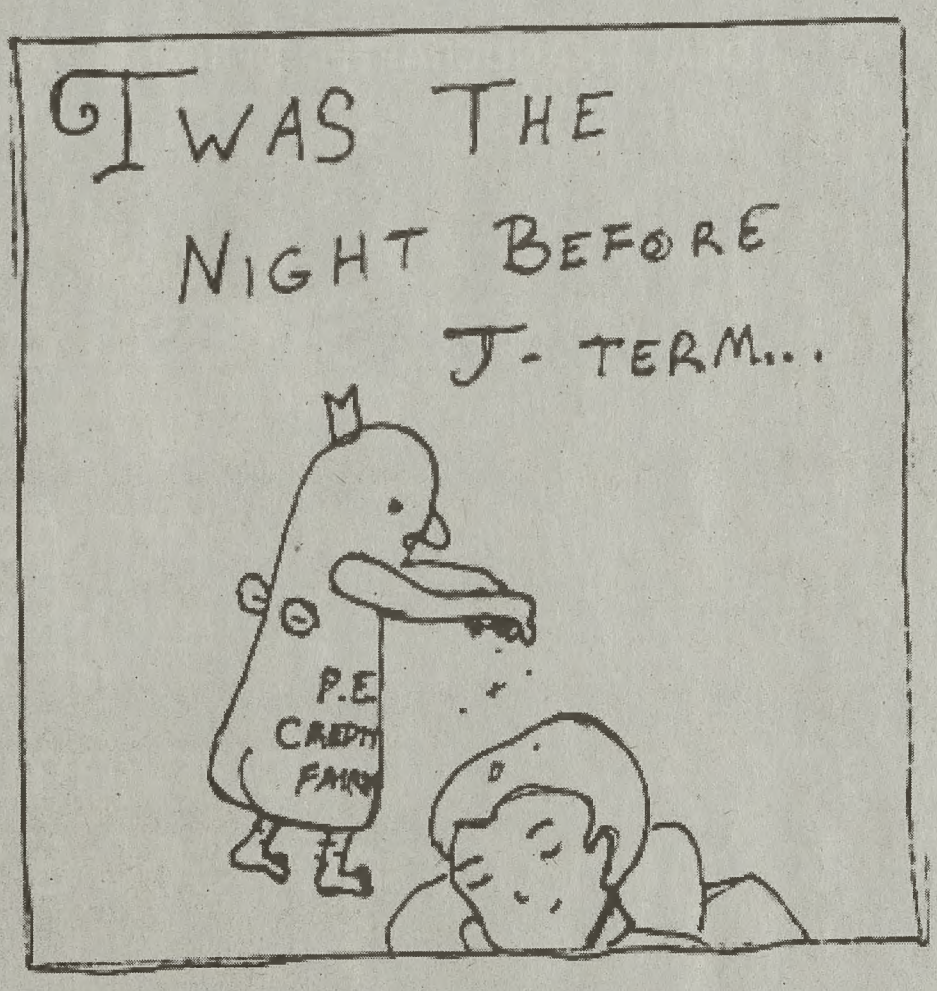
New Years Resolutions
Man, I haven't showered since LAST YEAR.
Haha, it's a little late in January to still be making that joke, isn't it?
What joke?
Kaitlynd Collins

KAITLYND COLLINS

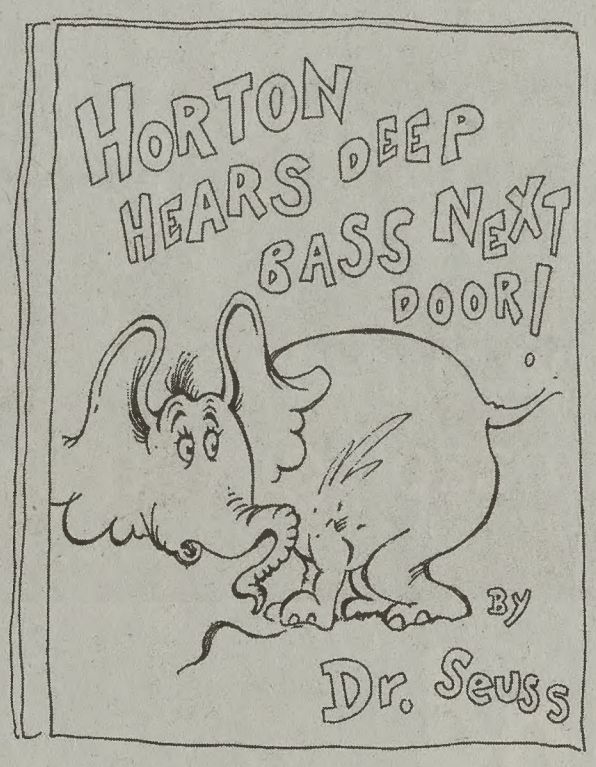




JENNY MOSS



MICHAEL FRANK



ELLIE EBERLEE

Women's Hockey Thumps No. 10 Endicott 5–0

By SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ

Middlebury women's hockey had quite a time this past weekend, taking to the road to handle UMass Boston on Friday, Jan. 12, and Endicott on Saturday, Jan. 13. In both contests, the Panthers blanked their opponents 5–0, outshooting UMass Boston by a margin of 40-19 and Endicott by 33–16. Middlebury now sits at 8–3–1, with their only loss in 2018 coming on Jan. 8 against Connecticut College.

During the first contest, Middlebury made use of their special teams, scoring the opening goal shorthanded after Anna Zumwinkle '20 received a two-minute penalty for interference. Jessica Young '18 brought the puck up on the left wing, gliding towards the goal, before centering a pass to Maddie Winslow '18 who blasted the puck into the net. In the final minute of the first quarter, the Panthers doubled their lead thanks to a shot by Haley LaFontaine '18. LaFontaine's goal, as with the rest that followed, would only serve as insurance to add to Middlebury's margin of victory in the shutout.

In the middle stanza, the Panthers ramped up the offensive pressure. Although just two shots went in, the Panthers took a stunning 22 shots on goal, including eight within the first five minutes by eight different players. Young had the closest bid, hitting the pipe before the puck ricocheted back into play.

Undeterred, the Panthers continued challenging the Beacon goalie until their persistence finally paid off at the 16:15 mark. Collecting her own rebound, Young nested a shot into the back of the net with a beautiful backhand, extending it to a 3–0 lead. In the final minute, the guests added another point to their lead: Zumwinkle blasted a shot that was batted away, but Elizabeth Wulf '18 poked in the rebound. Wulf's score not only gave the Panthers a 4–0 lead, but also extended her five-game point streak.

The Beacons had a chance to score in the opening minutes of the third and final stanza, but Julia Neuburger '18, who posted 19 saves, batted away the attempt. The Panthers added their last score of the game on a power-play opportunity. With a five-on-four advantage, Jenna Marotta '19 and Madie Liedt '21 helped to find Young at the top of the left key, where she finished for her team leading ninth goal of the season.

"We went into the weekend knowing these were going to be two tough opponents, so had the mentality of playing our game at the level we are capable," said Wulf. "Against UMass Boston, we generated a lot of scoring chances and it was just a matter of capitalizing and finishing on those opportunities which did, especially at the ends of periods, give us momentum going into the next period."

Against Endicott on Saturday, Middlebury leapt out to an early 1–0 lead. Wulf continued her hot streak when she collected a rebound from Katherine Jackson '19 and put it through the outstretched glove of the Gulls' goalie. The hosts had a pair of opportunities to score, but Lin Han '20 made back-to-back saves to preserve the 1–0 lead.

In the second stanza, the Gulls were looking at a potential breakaway score from the right side, but Han remained steady and calmly batted the puck away. Later in the frame, Leidt carried the puck down into Endicott's zone from the left wing before wristing a shot pass Endicott's goalie to give the Panthers a 2–0 lead

Even though Middlebury was relatively slow to start in the first two periods and entered the third stanza with a four-on-five disadvantage, the guests did not waste any time scoring in the final period. Right as the power-play ended for the Gulls, LaFontaine found the puck and passed it off to Lied cutting down the ice, who netted the third team goal and the her second of the game. A minute later, Janka Hlinka '18 won a faceoff and fed the puck to Winslow, who deposited the shot into the back of the net for the fourth score of the game.

With a 4–0 lead, Endicott fought for a chance, but Han deterred every shot. The Panthers could smell the shutout; to seal the game, Jackson found the back of the Gulls' net after a feed by Sydney Porter '20. Endicott mustered a couple attempts, but they could not come back and the Panthers capped the weekend with a combined 10–0 in final scores.

Wulf commented on the momentum the team build over the weekend, hoping to build further upon it in the future. "We did not have as strong of a first period as we wanted," she said, "but we came out hard in the second and third and put more pressure on their defense and finished our chances.

"The weekend was a testament to our focus on playing good defense, great goalie play, and our determination to generate and finish more scoring chances. Overall, we had a great weekend, and we hope to carry that play into the rest of the season!"

WOMEN'S HOCKEY USCHO.com POLL

RK	SCHOOL	RECORD	PREV.
1	PLATSBURGH	13–2–0	2
2	ELMIRA	13–2–0	1
3	NORWICH	12–1–1	3
4	ADRIAN	9–4–1	5
5	GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS	10–2–2	4
T–6	**MIDDLEBURY**	**8–3–1**	7
T–6	UW RIVER FALLS	11–4–1	6
8	ST. THOMAS	9–3–3	T–8
9	CONN. COLL.	9–3–2	T–8
10	AMHERST	8–5–1	NR

MEN'S BASKETBALL D3Hoops.com POLL

RK	SCHOOL	RECORD	PREV.
1	WHITMAN	15–0	1
2	UW–WHITEWATER	13–2	5
3	WASHU	12–2	6
4	YORK	15–0	8
5	WITTENBERG	15–0	10
T–6	UW–OSHKOSH	13–2	13
T–6	WHITWORTH	13–2	3
8	AUGUSTANA	12–3	2
9	MIT	14–1	11
10	LYCOMING	16–1	12
11	WILLIAMS	12–3	4
12	ST. JOHN'S	12–1	15
13	UW–RIVER FALLS	11–3	7
14	HAMILTON	14–0	18
15	SWARTHMORE	13–2	9
16	**MIDDLEBURY**	**11–3**	**16**
17	EMORY	12–2	20
18	MARIETTA	12–3	19
19	WESLEYAN	11–3	14
20	JOHN CARROLL	13–2	23
21	FRANKLIN & MARSHALL	13–2	22
22	EASTERN CONN.	13–2	24
23	OHIO WESLEYAN	11–4	17
24	ILLINOIS WESLEYAN	12–3	NR
25	ROCHESTER	11–3	NR

Skiing Seniors Look to Go Out on High Notes

All in all, the team looks well-poised to contend with the best, especially in giant slalom."

On the men's Nordic side, experience will not be lacking. Just like the women's Alpine team, Nordic placed third in the final three carnivals of the 2017 season. Massachusetts native Lewis Nottonson '19 was the lone Panther to earn an NCAA Championship bid after placing sixth in the 20K Freestyle at Middlebury, topping his previous-best 11th place finish earlier in the year (10K Freestyle at St. Lawrence).

Coming extremely close to 2017 NCAA bids were New Yorker Adam Luban '18 and Sam Wood '19 from Maine. Both Luban and Wood's season-best finishes were ninth in the 10K Classic (the former did it at Dartmouth while the latter was at the Vermont Carnival). Veteran Evan Weinman looks to finish his career strong after crossing the finish line in the top-ten five times in various events over the course of 2017.

Rounding out the men's roster are Jacob Volz '18, Gabe Mahoney '20, Max Polito '20, and a pair of rookies — Calvin Bates '21 and Peter Wolter '21 — looking to make a name for themselves.

For the women, success will be tied to their senior leadership. Cate Brams '18 and Katie Feldman '18 begin the 2018 season with NCAA aspirations after closing out the majority of their 2017 races as the top two Middlebury competitors. Last season, Brams achieved a fifth-place finish in the Freestyle Sprint at the Vermont Carnival and wound up sixth in the 5K Classic at the EISA Championships; Feldman's top individual finish was 15th in the 10K Classic at the University of Vermont.

The rest of the squad is very young, with no juniors on the roster. Four sophomores will battle for Carnival spots (Alex Cobb '20, Sophia Hodges '20, Annika Landis '20, and Orli Schwartz '20) along with a couple of first years (Avery Ellis '21 and Alexandra Lawson '21).

Like the Alpine team, the Nordic squad believes their team chemistry will be crucial to 2018's success. This year's team is "more cohesive than we've been in the past," said Feldman. "I've been really impressed by our first years and sophomores. They've done a great job stepping up in both training and racing, and I'm excited to see what they can do in the rest of the season."

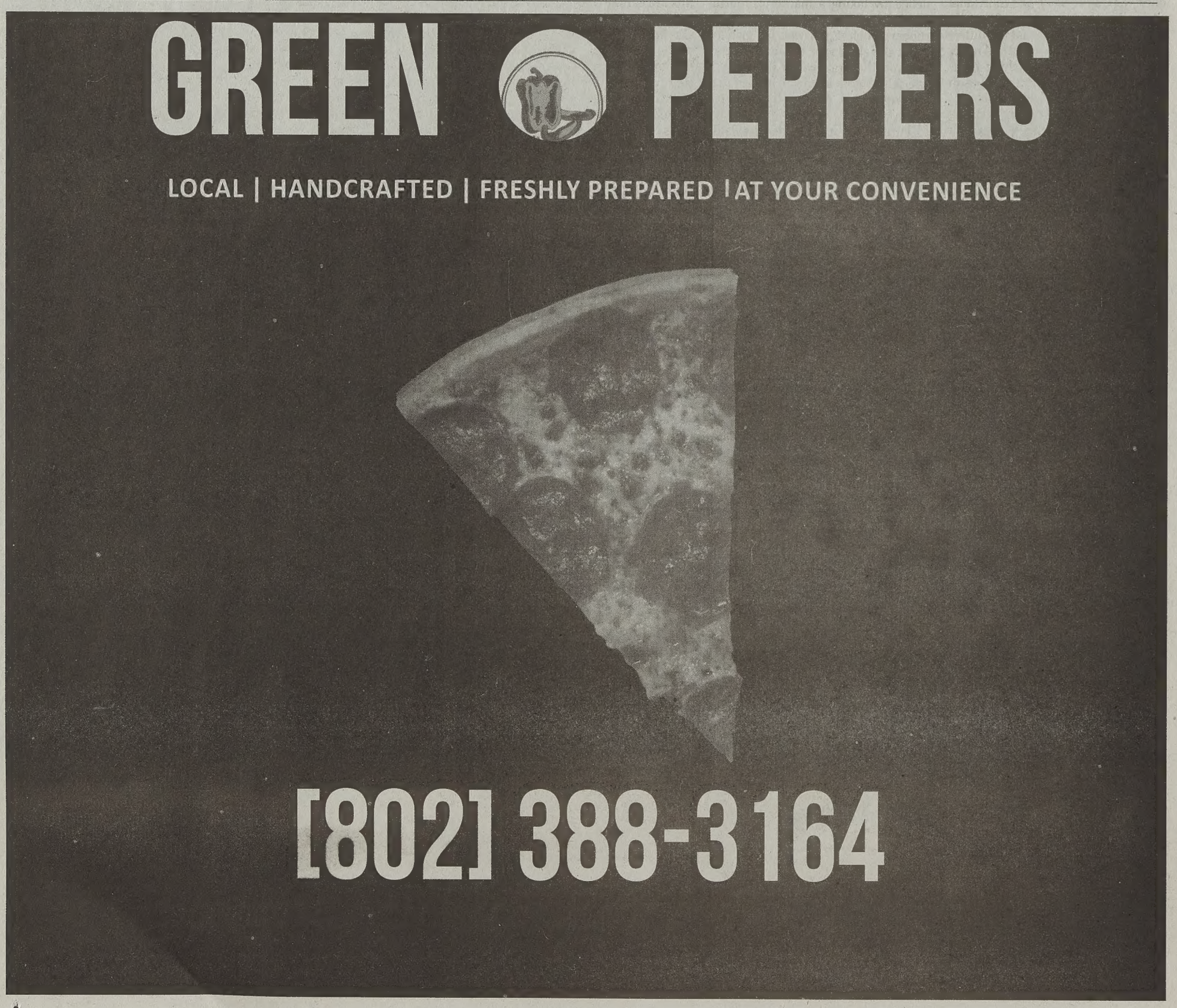
While the beginning of a season always brings promising new hope, this will be the last year of collegiate competition for eight members of the Panther ski teams. Like anyone who has devoted such a massive amount of time and effort to their passion, many of these seniors couldn't help but evince some sadness as they looked forward to the end of their seasons. However, the moment also provided them an opportunity to reflect on how best to take advantage of their remaining months as a Middlebury student-athlete.

For Plant, that process involves taking the time to truly bond with the team. "Heading into my last season, I'm really looking to have as much fun as possible," he said. "The results tend to be better when I focus on the things that remain consistently positive, and my teammates are particularly important for that," he says. Most importantly, Plant plans to leave nothing on the table: "I also hope to take some chances and really ski aggressively while I still have the opportunity to do so."

With one last season comes one last Winter Carnival, perhaps the defining moment of the ski season for students and athletes alike. Held at the Snow Bowl and the Rikert Nordic Center, Middlebury's lone home event falls on February 23rd and 24th; numerous students attend each year, creating a one-of-a-kind home advantage.

Like the rest of his team, Cardamone loves this particular weekend. "It's awesome racing at winter carnival just because there's so much support from the rest of the school. There aren't many college ski races where you can actually hear people cheering for you while you ski by... the students are having [so much fun] and it adds to the energy on race day."

Asked to sum up the team's aspirations for the season, Plant might have put it best: "Go big or go home, ya know?"



Men's Hockey Shows Signs of Brilliance

By HEATHER BOEHM

While the campus was silent over winter break, the men's hockey team made some noise down on the ice in Kenyon Arena. In their annual Middlebury Holiday Classic, the hosts shutout St. Michael's 4–0 and slipped past the number three ranked Oswego State 4–3 on their road to victory. The Panthers came back from their successful weekend to face conference foes on home ice on Saturday, Jan. 6. But, their win streak was cut short as the men fell to both Wesleyan 6–1 and Trinity 3–0. Middlebury had another opportunity at home to entertain their loyal fans, but Plattsburgh State held tough and skated past the Panthers with a 3–2 win.

Middlebury showed signs of brilliance on Saturday, Dec. 30, sweeping the visiting St. Michael's.

It was an even fight throughout the first stanza, with both Vermont teams unable to sneak the puck past their respective goalies. It was not until seconds into the second period that Owen Powers '20 put the Panthers on the board, giving them the edge over the Purple Knights. He sent the shot to the right post with help from David Belluche '18. Belluche was not finished yet, as he capitalized off of a perfect pass from Mitchell Allen '20. This second tally gave the Panthers some room to breathe, but the hosts offense showed no signs of slowing. In the final period Danny Tighe '20 and Trevor Turnbull '20 slapped in two more goals to secure their advancement into the finals of the tournament.

Coming off of a strong showing the day before, the men skated confidently into the rink to upset third-ranked Oswego State 4–3 on Sunday, Dec. 31. The win is the highpoint for the program that continues to stay on schedule with its rebuild.

Oswego's Tyson Bruce was the first player to knock a goal back in the first three minutes. But it took the Panthers no time to respond. Turnbull came up with the answer within minutes for his second goal of the weekend. After 13 minutes of evenly matched play, the Lakers overcame the Middlebury defense and notched a second tally to their score.

A 2–1 deficit did not intimidate the Panthers, which Belluche proved true as he countered the Lakers' shot. With some help from Powers, Belluche evened the score at 2–2 as the team entered the second stanza. The middle period remained scoreless thanks to Stephen Klein '18, blocking slaps from the Lakers with ease in order to keep his teammates in the game. Middlebury found a way to steal the lead from Oswego at 6:27 in the final period. Charlie Lawrence '21 energized the crowd with a goal off of a pass from Allen. After ten minutes, the Lakers netted a shot past the Middlebury goalie off of a power play.

With the game on the line and the clock counting down, Allen was able to hammer a shot past the St. Michael's goalie and lift the Panthers past the nationally ranked team.

Turnbull reflected on the victorious weekend.

"It was amazing to get a win like that at home," said Turnbull. "As far as the games go, I think we just kept our play simple against Oswego and outworked them for three periods straight. We definitely surprised them but when we play with that confidence we showed we can beat anyone. On top of that it was also our seniors first tournament championship so to be able to give them that was something a lot of us will always remember."

Unsurprisingly, Klein received the tournament's most valuable player considering he closed out the tournament with 34 saves and 65–68 stopped shots. Powers and Belluche earned themselves a spot on the all-tournament team.

The Panthers returned the following weekend to compete against Nescac rivals. Wesleyan visited Kenyon Arena on Saturday, Jan. 6, and outplayed Middlebury 6–1.

Wesleyan tallied two goals within the first ten minutes of the first stanza. The Cardinals revealed its impressive offense, as Dylan Holze pelted a shot past Klein and Cam McCusker finished off a rebound. Trailing by two, Middlebury found a solution when Alex Heinritz '21 broke through the Wesleyan defense and scored his first collegiate goal within minutes of the second period. But, the Cardinals quickly slid a shot past the Panthers just a minute later, as Vincent Lima earned one of two goals he would go on to score in the match. Lima increased the lead to 4–1 just before the second stanza came to a close.

In the final period, the Panthers were unable to find a way past the unrelenting Wesleyan defense despite their previous weekend's success. Although the hosts were given multiple scoring opportunities, earning four power plays, each one was denied, and the visitors successfully netted two more strikes past Klein to bring the final score to 6–1.

On Sunday, Jan. 7, the men took to the ice for a matchup against the second conference opponent of the weekend, Trinity. Middlebury fell to the third-ranked Bantams 3–0.

The teams showed an even matchup as neither team was denied all opportunities to reach the scoreboard until the third period. Klein once again was a major contributor to the scoreless first two periods, as he was able to reject all of the 13 slaps Trinity sent his way within the first 20 minutes. He closed out the match refusing 39 shots, while Bantam goalie left with 18 stops.

All was silent on the rink until visiting team's Dylan Healey pelted the puck past Klein in the first breaths of the third stanza. Barclay Gammill doubled Trinity's lead to promise them a win of 3–0 over their Nescac foe.

The Panthers had their most recent competition this past Friday, Jan. 12 on Kenyon Arena against Plattsburgh State. With winter break now over, the Panthers had a chance to show off their skills to their classmates in the stands. But, the Panthers could not deliver as the visitors stole the win from them 3–2.

Vincent Gisonti '18 swiped a rebound past the Plattsburgh goalie to give the Panthers an early lead within the first six minutes. After just 50 seconds, visiting Mike Falanga returned the favor as he took advantage of a rebound and swiped a shot past Klein. Both teams collected two more goals in the first stanza, entering the second with a tie of 2–2. At the 11:57 mark in the middle period, Andrew Pizzo netted the deciding goal of the competition. Both teams would hold scoreless for the remaining time periods, and Plattsburgh would come out over the Panthers 3–2.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, Middlebury fell at home to No. 10 Norwich 5–1. With the score tied at 1, the Cadets scored four unanswered goals to skate past the Panthers. Connor Lloyd '20 scored Middlebury's lone goal in the first period, the first goal of his Panther career.

The Panthers have showed signs that they are capable of beating top-notch competition. Look no further than their 4–3 victory of Oswego State.

Next up the 3–11 Panthers head to Waterville, Maine, to take on Colby tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

Men's Squash Looks Forward to Pivotal Weekend

By WILL CASE

The men's squash team will enter this weekend with an opportunity to beat teams more highly ranked in the College Squash Association poll. A win over either No. 15 Franklin & Marshall or No. 16 Cornell would go a long way to helping the Panthers stay in the running for a top 16 ranking to qualify them for the second division at the national championships and a chance to compete for the Hoehn Cup.

In their last match before winter break, the Panthers hosted No. 10 Dartmouth at the squash center. Already a tall task for the Panthers, they were without Jacob Ellen '20, who missed the match with a leg injury. Despite the setback to Ellen and the eventual 9–0 defeat at the hands of the Big Green, there were many positive takeaways for the Panthers.

The most notable performance of the match was that of Will Cembalest '20. Cembalest showed excellent skill, raw talent and a willingness to take risks throughout his first-year season last year. In the Dartmouth match, Cembalest was tasked with facing Dartmouth's No. 1, Alvin Huemann, a senior who finished 12th in the top bracket at last year's individual championships. For reference, Cembalest finished 67th at last year's individual championships. For those of you doing the math at home, that is a difference of 55 spots. But you would never have known that by watching Cembalest put Huemann on the ropes in December.

"Dartmouth has a very strong men's program," Cembalest said. "I knew how good the No. 1 [Huemann] would be, so it was little pressure going into the match."

Cembalest lost in straight sets, but that is misleading. He probably should have won the first two sets as he held an 8–6 lead and set point opportunities in both of them. Regardless of the outcome, Cembalest went shot-for-shot with Huemann, mixing in a couple of slick backhands, changes of pace and shots to keep Dartmouth's No. 1 on his heels.

"I knew the kid was tall and physically strong," Cembalest explained, "so my game plan was to be very patient and try to volley as much as possible. Making as few mistakes as I could and keeping the ball in play would get me the most success."

While the loss to Dartmouth was not the way the Panthers hoped to leave things for the break, they showed signs of progress, especially among the slew of sophomores on the top half of the ladder. However, when the Panthers returned to action on Saturday, Jan. 6, they lost 6–3 at the hands of No. 21 Williams on the road.

Last season, the Panthers split their two matches with Williams, both of which were 5–4 nail biters. However, they were without Ellen in the match they lost.

This time around, the Panthers dropped the match 6–3, although they had the services of Ellen at full strength. Cembalest continued his roll with a straight-set victory, all by a score of 11–7, against the Ephs' No. 1 Will Means. Ellen, in his return, fell in the second slot to John Fitzgerald who Ellen had split his pair of matchups with last year.

Part of the challenge in the Williams match was a hamstring injury to Nick Bermingham '20. Without Bermingham to occupy the fourth slot, everyone from there on down had to play a spot up.

This proved to be no problem for the Panthers' pair of first-years in the middle of the ladder, Wiatt Hinton '21 and John Epley '21. Hinton won a hard-fought, down-to-the-wire victory in the No. 5 match. In doing so, he managed to overcome a 13–11 setback in the first set and a 2–1 set deficit by taking a marathon fourth set 13–11 and an 11–5 victory in the rubber match. Epley won his matchup in the sixth spot in straight sets. He won the first two of those 11–5 and 11–4 before having to outlast the Williams No. 6, David Pincus, 12–10 in the final game.

Further down the ladder the Panthers had a harder time adjusting. Williams took all matches in the No. 7 through No. 9 slots, although Sam Giddens '18 and team captain Ryan Swope '18 managed to take a game off of their opponents at the bottom of the ladder.

After the setback against Williams, the Panthers had four days to recuperate before they hosted No. 24 Amherst a week before yesterday, Jan. 10, at the squash courts for a matinée. In a match the Panthers needed to win to keep their goal of cracking the top 16 in play, they rose to the occasion, easily dispatching the Mammoths 9–0. The top two-thirds of the ladder played exceptionally well for the Panthers as they made it through the match without dropping a set.

With the win over Amherst in hand, the Panthers began their yearly Maine round-tripper with their most important match of the year to date against Bates in Lewiston.

Bermingham was again not in the lineup, but the Panthers managed to win 5–4. Ellen and Jack Kagan '20 headlined the Panthers' efforts with wins in the second and third slots, each doing so in four sets. In the top slot, Cembalest lost in four sets, but did so in close fashion.

Cembalest dominated the first set with an 11–2 victory. After falling 11–7 and 11–6 in closely contested sets, he almost slipped by Yousry in the fourth set before dropping it 13–11.

"My match against Bates was a good experience for me," said Cembalest. "[Yousry] came out slow in the first game and I was ready on the first point. This boosted my confidence, but possibly too far that I was a little bit thrown off by how he turned it around in the second game. He was a very talented player with a large crowd at his home courts, so it was difficult to outperform him on that day. I am happy with my performance."

With Ellen limited by injuries and with Cembalest playing excellent squash, for the moment Cembalest has claimed the No. 1 slot on the ladder.

"I have been working extra hard this season on court and have put a lot of time into my mental game," said Cembalest. "I put in numerous hours at the end of the summer working on fitness and my movement on the court. It feels awesome to see the results from my pre-season work."

Following the Bates win, the Panthers travelled the next day to Waterville to play No. 23 Colby at the Mules' Dunaway Squash Center, where they won easily 7–2. Kagan and Pearson continued playing well even though they were slotted up due to Cembalest's tweak of an ankle in the Bates match the day before. Kagan continued to prove he is capable of winning in the No. 2 position as he played his opponent to scores of 11–5 and 6–11 before he finished off Colby's No. 2 with a pair of 11–6 scores. Kagan is now 2–1 in the second slot on the season and 3–1 in the third slot.

"I've been really excited about and impressed with the top four this season," Kagan said of the slew of sophomores at the top half of the ladder. "We don't typically have a top group that we can count on to always put up points; we often rely on the middle or our depth to beat teams."

This year has proven different and the most promising aspect is that the top performers are sophomores.

"I have to feel confident about our top four," said Kagan. "It takes pressure off of the bottom guys while giving the top guys a big confidence boost."

All of this has not come without hard work, though.

"I would have to attribute this to work everyone did in the summer and the fall," Kagan said. "We're all just better players than we were a year ago, simply put. We really have been able to match up with most of our opponents this year from the top to the bottom and that's a good thing to see looking forward."

Pearson and Hinton also kept the Panthers rolling against Colby, as Pearson won in the third slot in a set sequence of 11–9, 11–4, 7–11 and 11–7. Hinton split his first two sets against the Colby No. 4 before taking the third set 11–5 and holding on for a 13–11 victory in a marathon fourth set. After defeating his Bowdoin opponent, Hinton now has a five match winning streak, leading Kagan, Ellen, Swope and Will Kurth '18 each by one match for the longest current winning streak by a Panther.

After defeating Colby, the Panthers got back on the bus and travelled approximately 50 miles south to Brunswick where they took on Bowdoin at the Polar Bears' Lubin Squash Center to wrap up the Maine trip.

Still without the previously red-hot Cembalest, the Panthers nonetheless won easily against Bowdoin, 7–2. Ellen was dominant in the top position, allowing only four points in the first set and then only two each in the second and third sets. Kagan once again won in the second position, also in straight sets. The match of the match was probably Thomas Wolpow '20's.

In the No. 6 spot, Wolpow found himself down out of the gate when he dropped the first set 11–7. He nearly evened the match in the second set, but the Polar Bears' No. 6, Uday Khanna, edged him out 13–11. Wolpow battled back even though he could have shut it down in the third set. In another nail-biter, he flipped the script in the third set and won 13–11, which shifted the momentum firmly to his side. After winning the fourth set 11–7, Wolpow gutted out a victory in the deciding fifth set 11–9.

With the annual Maine trip behind them, the Panthers now head into a weekend that can help their chances of qualifying for the top 16. By winning at least one of their two matchups with F&M and Cornell, they will be firmly in the conversation to qualify to compete for the Hoehn Cup.

"Success in this weekend's matches," Kagan said, "is [us] winning one or two of those. We beat Bates who is ahead of us, but lost to Williams who is behind us. There's some teams in our range who we don't play in the regular season, so to reach our goal of top 16 in the country, beating No. 15 [F&M] or No. 16 [Cornell] would be a huge help to our case. We lost a tight 5–4 match to F&M last year and we're out to flip that one this year for sure, having them at home this time. We see these two matches as 100 percent winnable."

Added Cembalest: "I am really looking forward to Cornell and Franklin and Marshall next weekend where I will be playing more top-ranked players. I'm looking to bring the heat on my home courts."

You can catch both the men's and women's squads in action this coming weekend at the squash courts. They take on F&M on Saturday at 11 a.m. and Cornell on Sunday at noon.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Jacob Ellen '20 returned from an injury to bolster the top of the Panthers' ladder as the dog days of J-term approach.

SCOREBOARD

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

FRIDAY
Bowdoin at Middlebury, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY
Bowdoin at Middlebury, 3 p.m.

NESCAC

School	Record Conf.	Overall
CONN. COLLEGE	6–1–1	9–3–2
HAMILTON	6–0–0	8–3–1
MIDDLEBURY	4–1–1	8–3–1
AMHERST	4–3–1	8–5–1
WILLIAMS	3–2–3	8–3–3
COLBY	1–4–3	4–6–3
WESLEYAN	0–2–4	4–6–4
BOWDOIN	1–4–1	6–4–1
TRINITY	0–8–0	2–10–0

MEN'S HOCKEY

FRIDAY
Middlebury at Colby, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY
Middlebury at Bowdoin, 4 p.m.

NESCAC

School	Record Conf.	Overall
TRINITY	6–1–1	9–3–2
COLBY	6–4–0	7–6–0
WILLIAMS	6–2–0	10–4–0
WESLEYAN	4–2–2	8–2–3
CONN. COLLEGE	5–3–0	5–8–0
AMHERST	3–3–3	5–6–3
HAMILTON	4–4–1	9–4–1
TUFTS	2–5–1	3–9–2
BOWDOIN	2–8–0	4–11–0
MIDDLEBURY	1–7–0	3–10–0

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SATURDAY
Middlebury at Williams, 3 p.m.
MONDAY
Smith at Middlebury, 6 p.m.

NESCAC

School	Record Conf.	Overall
AMHERST	3–0	16–0
BOWDOIN	3–0	15–0
TUFTS	3–1	15–2
CONN. COLLEGE	2–2	11–4
MIDDLEBURY	2–2	12–4
WILLIAMS	2–2	10–6
COLBY	1–2	6–7
HAMILTON	1–2	11–4
BATES	1–3	6–11
TRINITY	1–3	11–5
WESLEYAN	1–3	10–5

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SATURDAY
Williams at Middlebury, 3 p.m.
SUNDAY
Middlebury at Pine Manor, 2 p.m.

NESCAC

School	Record Conf.	Overall
HAMILTON	3–0	14–0
MIDDLEBURY	3–1	11–3
TUFTS	3–1	12–4
WILLIAMS	3–1	12–3
TRINITY	2–2	11–4
WESLEYAN	2–2	11–3
AMHERST	1–2	9–5
BOWDOIN	1–2	10–4
COLBY	1–2	10–5
BATES	1–3	8–9
CONN. COLLEGE	0–4	6–10

WOMEN'S SQUASH

SATURDAY
Franklin & Marshall at Middlebury, 11 a.m.
SUNDAY
Cornell at Middlebury, 12 p.m.

MEN'S SQUASH

SATURDAY
Franklin & Marshall at Middlebury, 11 a.m.
SUNDAY
Cornell at Middlebury, 12 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING

SATURDAY
Middlebury at Union, 2 p.m.

NORDIC SKIING

SATURDAY-SUNDAY
St. Michael's Carnival at Sleepy Hollow Ski Center - Hinesburg, Vermont, 10 a.m.

ALPINE SKIING

SATURDAY-SUNDAY
Colby Carnival at Sugarloaf Mountain - Carrabessett Valley, Maine, 9 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD

SATURDAY
Middlebury Winterfell, 11:30 a.m.

Men's Basketball Sweeps at Pepin

By ANDREW RIGAS

AIDAN ACOSTA

Jack Daly '18 and the Panthers celebrate in their 82–76 win over Bates on Friday, Jan. 12. The 16th-ranked Panthers trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half, but outscored the Bobcats 47–33 in the second half to win the Nescac contest in Pepin Gym.

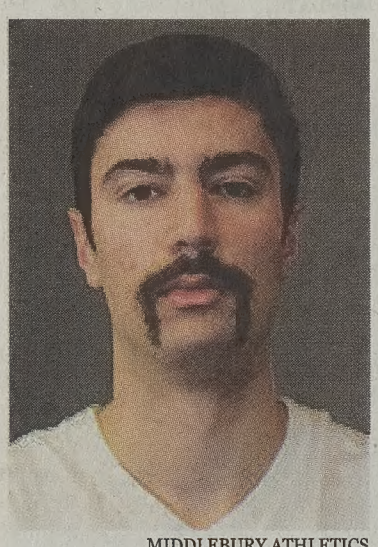
The men's basketball season can be split into three phases. The first ended with the team's 91–76 win over previously undefeated No. 16 Skidmore on Friday, Dec. 8. Its second phase occurred over the break, when the Panthers experienced their first road bumps of the season and lost their first three (and only) games so far. Now, the team is in its third phase as they have experienced a resurgence since the beginning of J-term, including Nescac victories over Bates 82–76 on Friday, Jan. 12, and Tufts 78–63 on Saturday, Jan. 13. After this stretch of nine games, Middlebury stands at 12–3 overall and 3–1 in the Nescac, good for a three-way tie in the conference with Tufts and Williams and a half-game behind undefeated Hamilton.

In its final game before winter break, Middlebury travelled to Skidmore and managed to recover from a 38–34 halftime deficit with a monstrous 57-point second half that propelled them to a 91–76 defeat of the Thoroughbreds.

The Panthers' starting-five led the way offensively, scoring 82 of the team's 91 points. Jack Farrell '21 tallied a career-high 22 points, while Nick Tarantino '18 added 20 and a career-high 17 rebounds. Entering the game, the Panthers ranked second nationally, behind only undefeated Whitman.

After final exams and returning home for break, Middlebury returned to campus for a couple days of practice, before heading south to play in the Washington & Lee Holiday Tournament. In their first game of the tournament, the Panthers faced their second-consecutive undefeated opponent in No. 25 York (Pa.) on Friday, Dec. 29. Down 70–60 with only 4:16 remaining in regulation, the Panthers reeled off a 14–2 run to take a two-point lead with 36 seconds left. York responded with a late layup to tie the game and force overtime.

York jumped out to an eight-point lead in overtime, but Middlebury came right back with an 8–2 spurt to get within two points with 10 seconds left. York then turned the ball over, but Middlebury gave it right back and York sank one free throw to take a three-point lead. Farrell had a look to tie, but his three bounced off the back of the rim. The Panthers lost their first game of the season in overtime to York, 90–87.



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS

Matt Folger '19.

Middlebury's starting five once again did most of the scoring, tallying 73 of the team's 87 points. Matt Folger '20 and Jack Daly '18 led the pack with 22 and 20, respectively.

The Panthers rebounded from its first loss of the season in the consolation game of the Washington & Lee tournament, handling Clarks Summit 81–58. Daly was the only Middlebury scorer in double digits with 16 points on an efficient five-of-eight shooting from the field. He added eight rebounds and six assists.

The following Tuesday, Jan. 2, No. 4 Middlebury returned home to host No. 12 Swarthmore. The Garnet built a 47–32 halftime lead that the Panthers could not recover from, as the visitors came away with a 91–75 victory. Folger scored 21 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and Daly and Eric McCord '19 both added 12 points in the Middlebury loss.

Middlebury took a 7–2 record into Nescac play when they travelled to Connecticut for games at Connecticut College on Friday, Jan. 5, and at Wesleyan on Saturday, Jan. 6. The Panthers doubled the Camels' first half total to take a commanding 46–23 lead into the locker room, and cruised to an 82–60 win in their first conference game. Folger led the way again with 16 points, while five other Panthers scored at least eight points.

In a back-and-forth affair, No. 12 Wesleyan outlasted Middlebury the following night 80–70. Daly scored a game-high 21 points, grabbed a season-high 15 rebounds, and assisted on eight baskets. However, the Cardinals got to the line far more often and shot 28 more free throws in their 10-point victory.

Two days later, on Monday, Jan. 8, Middlebury had another non-conference game at home against Morrisville State. The Panthers won 85–64 with a balanced scoring effort, as Hilal Dahleh '19, McCord and Adisa Majors '18 all scored 12 points. Daly made only one shot from the field, but handed out a career-high 14 assists.

On Friday, Jan. 12, Middlebury played its first home Nescac game against Bates. The Bobcats built the largest lead of the contest in the first half when they led 43–31. However, the Panthers scored the last four points of the first half and extended their run into the second half, tying the score at 48. Middlebury went ahead by as many as seven two times, but Bates cut the lead to one, 71–70, with 2:32 left. Folger and Daly closed the game out by scoring Middlebury's last thirteen points and leading the Panthers to a 82–76 victory.

A game after recording his career-high in assists, Daly scored a career-high 26 points, along with nine rebounds and eight assists. In coming from behind in the second half, Middlebury shot a blistering 64 percent from the field to outscore Bates 47–33.

The next night, the Panthers came from behind once more in Pepin Gym to knock off Tufts, who was previously undefeated in the Nescac, 78–63. Tufts led by as many as ten points in the first half, and took a 38–36 lead into halftime. Middlebury led 52–51 at the 13-minute mark, before going on a 14–0 run to put the game out of the Jumbos' reach. The Panthers secured a 78–63 win by outscoring Tufts 42–25 in the second half, holding the visitors to only 24 percent shooting in the final twenty minutes.

Middlebury dominated on the boards, out-rebounding Tufts 70–41 and grabbing 33 offensive rebounds. McCord retrieved a career-high 15 rebounds and added 13 points, while Daly scored 16 and Folger tallied 15.

On Jan. 15, Small College Basketball released its Top 100 Watchlist for the 2017–18 Bevo Francis Award, given to the best player from Division II, Division III, the NAIA, USCAA, and NCAA men's basketball. Daly was named to the watchlist, after averaging 16.4 points, 8.8 assists, and 8.6 rebounds per game in Middlebury's first 14 contests. Daly also recorded what is believed to be the first triple-double in the program's history. He is also leading the nation in assists per-game with 8.8.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, the Panthers fell behind in their third straight game, this time to Albertus Magnus in Pepin Gym. At halftime, the Falcons led 36–34. Middlebury took a 57–47 lead with 8:37 left in regulation, and led 64–56 with just under five minutes. But Albertus Magnus scored 10 out of the last 12 points in regulation, including two free throws with 20 seconds left to force overtime.

Tied at 71 with a little over one minute remaining in overtime, Daly scored on a fastbreak layup to put Middlebury ahead for good. The Panthers scored the last six points of the game to outlast Albertus Magnus 77–71.

Daly scored 22 points to lead the Panthers, while Folger, Dahleh, and Joey Leighton '20 all added nine. With nine assists, Daly brought his career assist mark to 503, becoming the third player in program history to record 500 assists.

Middlebury returns to the court on Saturday, Jan. 20, when it hosts Williams in an anticipated matchup between Nescac rivals. Last season, Williams beat Middlebury in the regular season, Middlebury got revenge in the Nescac championship game, but the Ephs got the last laugh in the NCAA Quarterfinals. Their rankings once they come out and records. On Sunday, Jan. 21, the Panthers travel to Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, to face non-conference opponent Pine Manor.

AIDAN ACOSTA

Jack Farrell '21 (24) drives to the basket against Bates, as Eric McCord '19 rolls in that direction as well.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STRUGGLES IN MAINE

By IMRAN GANDA

In two games away on the road, Middlebury suffered its first Nescac loss of the season Friday, Jan. 12, to Bates by a narrow margin of 60–57. The Panthers were unable to bounce back from the loss as they also fell to Tufts Jumbos 61–45 the next day, Saturday, Jan. 13.

With just a one-point lead at the end of the first, Middlebury and Bates were exchanging well. Neither team secured a lead larger than three. The two teams went on to continue the back-and-forth with Middlebury holding a 28–26 lead after the first half.

Within the first minute of the third quarter, Bates was able to gain a 31–28 lead with baskets coming from Melanie Binkhorst, and a three-pointer by Emily Fredland. The Panthers fought back, managing to lead twice, but were unable to maintain a comfortable lead trailing 44–40 heading into the fourth.

With the score at 49–44 three minutes into the final quarter, the Panthers rallied a 5–0 run with Sarah Kauffman '18 scoring a layup. Bates responded with a run of their own, breaking the deadlock and eventually gaining a 57–51 lead with around a minute remaining. Forward Betsy Knox '20 managed to convert a three-point play with 37 seconds on the clock to cut the Bobcats' lead to three. Bates managed to get a quick three-pointer to extend their lead to 6 down the stretch, to which Kaufman responded with a three-pointer of her own.

Kauffman led the Panthers in scoring with 15 and forward Maya Davis '20 had a game-high eight rebounds. The Panthers seemed to have done everything right, having fewer turnovers, out rebounding the Bobcats 33–30, and the bench pouring in a 15-point performance compared to Bates' six.

In its second game, Middlebury were down eight to Tufts 14–6 after the first quarter. A 10–2 run halfway into the second quarter enabled the Panthers to be within two with 3:27 before the half. Knox led the way during the run with six points before Tufts grabbed a bucket to solidify a 25–21 lead entering the second half.

Roughly three minutes into the third quarter, Davis pulled off a three-point play to give the Panthers a 27–25 advantage. Just as the Panthers were going to close in on the lead, the Jumbos ran rampant with a 16–2 run for the next five minutes. With the score at 41–29, Middlebury scored eight of the next 13 to make the score 46-37. Sabrina Weeks '18 scored four during the 8–5 exchange.

The Jumbos went on a 7–0 run midway into the final quarter to give themselves a comfortable lead of 56–39 with just over three minutes to play. After a few more exchanges, Tufts secured a solid victory over the Panthers, 61–45.

Knox led the Panthers in three statistical categories with 12 points, six rebounds, and two assists.

Middlebury will take on Williams on Saturday, Jan. 20, in Massachusetts before returning home Monday Jan. 22, to host Smith College.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Sarah Kauffman '18 scored her 1,000th career point as a Panther in Middlebury's 63–39 win over Castleton on Tuesday, Jan. 9, in Pepin Gym.